

THE GUARDIAN

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President and Associate Editor, Ian A. Burnett, Associate Editor, Frank Walker.

"The Strongest Memory is Weaker Than the Weakest Ink"

CHARLOTTETOWN, WEDNESDAY, OCT. 17, 1951

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People's Banks

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On Thursday Credit Union Day is being celebrated for the fourth time here and on the hundredth anniversary of their European predecessors. They have come a long way since that time and done much to promote habits of thrift in their members as well as providing co-operative credit facilities for individuals who singly would in many cases be unable to obtain it through commercial institutions. Their record is a refutation of the proposition that nothing is greater than the sum of its component parts.

Milestones Up To Date

The marking of highways and by-ways has altered much since the early days of the automobile, almost as much as the highways themselves. The driver today cannot look for half-hidden markers in small print, nor can he safely look away from traffic long enough to read detailed directions or a multiplicity of signs.

The number of highway signs must be kept to a minimum and those used should be so standardized that their character can be recognized at a glance.

On a through highway distances between points may be shown at intervals along the way, while at intersections it should be enough to indicate where the secondary routes lead to. The unmarked direction could thus be confidently assumed to be the main thoroughfare.

Permits for commercial signs should in all cases be considered first from the point of view of their bearing on traffic safety and secondly from that of the scenic surroundings.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Without wishing any ill to the fuel dealers, most householders would be quite happy to have mild weather continue indefinitely.

In St. Catharines only eight persons were presented to the Princess and the Duke, but according to reports the visit there was none, the less memorable.

The Federal Government has decided against reintroduction of price control. This is in the interest of farmers and food producers generally, for in the past they were the ones to be discriminated against.

Complaints about conditions at night at the Park Driveway will no doubt receive police attention. It may be recalled a parson once decided to go and investigate for himself, was beaten up, and laid off duty for a fortnight.

The admission that three U. N. aircraft had strafed the Kaesong neutral zone should indicate to the Reds the good faith of U. N. negotiators, but the incident illustrates how unsuitable in modern warfare is a patch of neutral territory within the area of active operations.

Nova Scotia faces the problem of inadequate bridges at frequent intervals along otherwise excellent highways. For the most part both bridges and highways in this Province require heavy expenditure to bring them up to a satisfactory standard of safety and usefulness.

Francois Frederic Chopin, Polish composer and pianist, died this date 1849. He performed in public at the age of nine and ten years later set out on a concert tour. Equalled only by Liszt as a pianist, Chopin lived in Paris and seldom gave public concerts. His compositions were unlike those of any other composer, although he made use of dance forms frequently, notably the mazurka.

To the uninitiated, police methods are apparent only after reading the final pages of the better detective stories. Yet the work of the Charlottetown Police Department day by day is equally admirable and a matter of wonder. An example yesterday of what is mere routine. A lady called to say her child's trike was missing. The sergeant asked a minimum of information, yet in fifteen minutes the patrol returned the missing bike. As we are certain our police department is not equipped with a crystal ball, this is without doubt an example of super efficiency in the best detective tradition.

After Iran (says Letter Review) Egypt is the next foothold to come under attack from within. Will the U. S., Canada and other free nations come openly to the support of Britain in retaining that, or not? On that decision will depend the next developments of the Third World War. Question of the day is whether Iran, by depriving itself of its only important economic development, now becomes an undeveloped area, entitled to technical assistance, large scale gifts and all the rest of the Point Four programme? Is the Western world to feed and clothe Iranians, to the extent to which the Iranians have deprived themselves of food and clothing by this stunt?

The two vessels being reconditioned here for the R.C.N. have a proud record of service and will before long again be available for whatever duties are required. The "Westmount", now being dry-docked in Pictou, was engaged in patrol and escort service from early in 1941. The other Bangor, "Malpeque", was removed from similar service to join fifteen other R.C.N. minesweepers in clearing German mines off Point Barfleur in advance of the great assault on Europe, "Operation Neptune". The 31st Canadian Flotilla, to which she was attached, swept channel three, going within one and one-half miles of the French coast under the German guns to clear the fire-support channel for the use of the battle-wagons.

The egg prices quoted below are for Grade A Large. At Montreal and Toronto the prices are those at which graded shipments are selling to wholesalers. At other points quotations are prices to shippers for ungraded eggs.

Table with 3 columns: Location, 1951, 1950-1949. Rows include Montreal, Toronto, Winnipeg, Vancouver, Edmonton, Regina, Charlottetown.

Poultry receipts quite heavy for season. Sales are slow, with the exception of undergrades. Substantial sales of these are being made to local canneries. Retail poultry sales over Thanksgiving were excellent.

With Recollections



Old Charlottetown

(And P. E. I.)

CATHOLIC EDUCATION

Legislative Assembly, April 4, 1888:

Hon. George Coles, leader of the Government, presented to the House a copy of a memorial of His Lordship the Roman Catholic Bishop of Charlottetown, on the subject of Education, and also a copy of minutes of Council in reply thereto. The said memorial states:

"That in 1833 the late Right Rev. Aeneas Bernard MacEachern, Roman Catholic Bishop of Charlottetown, did establish a College or Institution of learning at St. Andrew's, in King's County, which had been endowed with certain lands and property, which were invested in trustees by an Act of the Legislature the same year for the support of the said College.

"That with the aid of a grant from the Legislature every year up to 1844, the College was kept in active operation, when it was deemed advisable by the Right Rev. Bernard Donald MacDonald, the R. C. Bishop of Charlottetown, to erect a College on a large scale near Charlottetown, now called St. Dunstan's College, which he endowed with certain lands in the Royalty of Charlottetown, and in aid of which the income arising from the property of St. Andrew's College has been appropriated since it was opened in 1853.

"That in 1857 a female boarding and day school was opened in Charlottetown, conducted by the ladies of the Congregation of Notre Dame, in which most of the higher branches of female education are taught, while a large number of the poor children of the City have been, and are still, taught free of any expense whatever.

"That in 1862 another school was opened on Pownall Street, known as St. Joseph's School, conducted by the same ladies, although numerous attended, very few of them pay any fees whatever.

"That another female boarding and day school was opened in Miscouche, in Prince County, in 1854, in which the usual higher branches of female education are taught, at which a large number of pupils attend daily.

"That in the four educational institutions just named, upwards of 500 pupils are educated, three-fourths of whom belong to the poorer classes, and consequently pay nothing. He feels convinced that the education imparted is superior to that taught in the school, and he feels it a grievance that he gets no aid from the school fund of the Colony—not even as much for the number of children taught free, as should be paid for them if they attended the district schools.

"That in seeking a redress of this grievance His Lordship disclaims all idea of any exclusive handed justice is desired—and that he has for some years with little sacrifice and inconsequence, endeavoured to establish and maintain these institutions, which he considered essential to a sound Catholic education, in the earnest hope that, one day, simple justice would be received at the hands of the Legislature.

"His Lordship therefore earnestly entreats His Excellency in Council to consider impartially his case, and ask the Legislature to alter the present School Act, so as to permit his schools to participate in a fair proportion of the school fund, according to their number and efficiency; or to grant a sum specifically for the purpose.

The copy of the Minutes of Council in reply to said memorial states: "That whilst His Excellency in Council freely acknowledges the great and meritorious exertions made by His Lordship in the cause of Education, they regret that they do not feel themselves in a position to submit the proposed grant to the consideration of the Legislature."

MOSLEM MONUMENT

The famous "tower of the 40 martyrs" was built by the Moslems in Palestine in the 14th century.

New Ways In Canadian Agriculture

(Monthly Review of The Bank of Nova Scotia)

A veritable transformation has taken place in Canadian agriculture in the past generation, says the current Monthly Review of The Bank of Nova Scotia, which deals with the effects of science and invention on Canadian farming methods.

At the end of World War I the Review notes, power-farming and rural electrification were just beginning in Canada. Little was known about Canadian soils and methods of preserving their fertility. The scientific breeding of plants to adapt them to conditions in various parts of the country was in its infancy. And the chemical discoveries responsible for modern methods of insect and weed control and for the latest techniques in seed treatment and animal feeding were still far in the future.

Since that time, however, remarkable changes have taken place. Progress in applying labour-saving and production-increasing improvements, which have held back in the 'thirties by the generally depressed level of farm income, was speeded up during the war by good prices, by the labour shortage and by the patriotic appeal to increase food production. Labour-saving machinery was installed to the extent that it was obtainable and existing machinery was more intensively employed.

Encouraged by subsidies on lime and fertilizer, farmers made greater use of them. The use of improved varieties of seed, of the most modern methods of pest control, of scientific methods of animal feeding became more widespread. Since the war, with good prices for agricultural products and much-increased production of farm machinery, mechanization has gone ahead at an extraordinary rate and the use of fertilizers and the new chemicals for pest and weed control has grown rapidly.

Moreover, as the Review points out, in the world at large a fundamental change has taken place in the whole climate of thought surrounding agriculture. The long-held illusion that reserves of farm land are unlimited has given way to the realization that strong positive steps must be taken if the world's rapidly increasing population is not to outrun the food supply.

The world is faced with the plain fact that few fertile and easily accessible areas remain to be brought under cultivation anywhere on the globe. Thus, there is growing anxiety about the wastage through erosion of the most precious of all natural resources, the soil itself. In these circumstances, the problem of making wise and efficient use of agricultural resources takes on a new significance.

The most obvious and striking change of the past three decades, according to the Review, is the shift from animal to mechanical power. Basic to it has been the evolution of the tractor from the lumbering steel-wheeled giant of World War I suitable mainly for extensive field work to the smaller rubber-tired and general-purpose types of today, with "power-take-off" enabling them to run the other machines in the field or barnyard.

The numerous separate operations formerly necessary to perform certain tasks have been telescoped: grain can be cut, threshed and bagged; hay picked up and baled; corn or grass harvested and cut up for ensilage in one trip over the field. The number of man-hours of labour required has thus been much reduced, and farm work speeded up, making possible before the coming of winter the operations that are apt to be affected by unfavourable weather.

Another effect of mechanization has been to reduce by many thousands of acres the cropland necessary to grow feed for draught horses, releasing those acres for commercial crop production or for use by other types of livestock. Last, but by no means least, it has lessened the drudgery of farm work.

It should be borne in mind, however, says the Review, that so far as individual farms are concerned the benefits of mechanization are very unevenly distributed. Naturally, mechanization has proceeded farthest and yielded the greatest returns in increased labour efficiency and bigger production on the larger and better-managed farms. One of the major problems in agriculture is how to enable small farms to obtain more of the benefits of mechanical equipment.

Commenting that mechanization is only one part of the story of agricultural change in the last generation, the Review goes on to say that over the past quarter of a century the findings of science have had a growing impact on Canadian agriculture. Not only have great advances in scientific knowledge been made through long hours of patient work in laboratories and on experimental farms but the practical application of this knowledge has been speeded up. And when the total effect of scientific advances is evaluated it becomes apparent that they have played at least as large a part as mechanization in the changes that have come about in agriculture, and that they promise even more for the future.

Perhaps in no other field of agricultural science are results so extensive as in that of plant breeding. Canada is famous for her success in developing the early-maturing and rust-resistant strains of wheat that have contributed so much to her eminence as a wheat producer.

The Powers that Be

Yes?

WANTED: - This time A LINGERING LOOK, please.

ROYAL WITNESS

RAH! LONG LIVE!

SWISH!

RAH!

WELCOME TO HIS MAJESTY

1950

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Lessons From Europe In Community Progress

By Leo P. Meisnac Part One (continued) (All Rights Reserved)

IMPRESSIONS OF BELGIUM

We returned to Paris and in time for one more evening at the opera. This meant seeing a superb performance of "Faust" and mixing among the gentry of Paris. The sight of some of "the world's best dressed ladies" with their long glittering gowns would make you realize it was Paris, even if one had not been aware of it previously.

We left Paris early in the morning, and were in Brussels well before noon, after passing up through the industrial part of France and Belgium. It did not take long to find the offices of the Alliance Agricole which we had contacted, and whose officials had arranged accommodations for us. From the head offices of the farm organizations and cooperatives, we got a general picture of the outlook and the activities of those groups in Belgium and made arrangements and appointments to have a closer look at some of their activities during the next few days.

Immediately we got the impression that Brussels was a very prosperous city. The standards of living all over Belgium, are in many ways about the highest of those in western Europe. There is a very business-like air about Brussels. It is a busy city of about one million people. The food shops were filled to overflowing, and the meat shops with their displays along the side of the street, jutting well out on the sidewalks, looked like our Canadian markets during special displays before Christmas or Easter. We saw more new and large American cars in Brussels and the other Belgian towns we visited than one would see in most centers of similar size in the United States.

Generally speaking, the Belgians are a rich people. They were liberated from the Nazis much earlier than Holland or the other occupied countries and lost no time in getting their factories and general special display, before full operation. The three-way exchange with the United States through the Belgian Congo, where the minerals are bought for dollars allows for greater international trade and in procuring luxuries.

We had a chance to see the Royal Palace and the beautiful surrounding gardens. We walked down to see the Palace of Justice, Notre Dame du Sablon, Sablon Square, the Synagogue, the parliament buildings, the congress column and arranged to visit the Chateau de Gaesbeek later.

In Brussels, and Belgium as a whole, the two official languages are French and Flemish, but many people speak English, and several other languages. One morning we took the bus out to Louvain, that well known university town which was badly ravaged during the war. There, we visited the headquarters of the largest farm organization in the country—perhaps one of the soundest in Europe—which will be discussed later.

A tour of the university colleges, and the beautiful new library, built largely with donations from American colleges, after the war, was arranged. St. Michael's is the patron of the Belgians, and in nearly all their organizations and works, there is a religious theme which ever keeps the Eternal End in view. The people are religious in principle, but a large percentage of the men are rather lax when it comes to the everyday practice of their faith. Independence and aggressiveness in recent generations have created two rather difficult divisions within Belgium.

The first, of course, is the language difficulty, where the southern group speaks French and those in the north speak Flemish. The second is politics, where the French or southern people are mostly industrial workers and socialists in outlook while the farming and business population tend to be conservative.

As usual there are enough radicals creeping into both camps from time to time to keep the pot boiling. They stir up enough small incidents to satisfy the demands of the public and the newspapers for an odd startling story. The issue is not so much a religious one, as a difference in language, background and political outlook based on the two distinct ways of life.

Their national economy is almost balanced within the country. They have a ready market for their food products which are almost sufficient to meet their home requirements, with some small exports occasionally. Any shortages of food can usually be imported from Holland although the Dutch feel that Belgium could buy more from them.

Yes, we had a chance to visit Ghent. My first recollection of Ghent was the old poem about "How They Brought The Good News From Ghent to Aix." It is a city of monuments, old buildings and flowers, with a population now, including the suburbs, of about one quarter of a million. The former capital of Flanders, it is not so far from the field where our Canadian soldiers of the First World War are buried. In Ghent, too, is the main agriculture college of the country, and around it some of the most prosperous and fertile farming land we saw. It is also an important textile center and a notable port.

One could never forget a visit to Ghent. The river Lye comes through, narrow and walled with stone which was placed there by masons who really knew their job. There are canals, also walled with beautiful grey stone and running by the back doors of the freight sheds, where supplies were brought in, and products shipped out by boat when water was the chief means of transportation. The cathedrals, monuments and churches of Ghent make a lasting impression even after visiting Rome and Paris. The architecture and style of some of those old houses, hotels and store fronts will make you stiffen in wonderment. We visited St. Bavon's Cathedral, the wings of which were built in 840 A.D. It is houses the world famous fifteenth century painting, the Adoration of the Mystic Lamb, by the brothers, Van Eyck.

We had time only for a hurried look around the archaeological museum and the old Billore Abbey, before going on to see the castle of Gerard the Devil. This old castle, with parts of it dating back to the tenth century, with its remarkable early Gothic basement, is the center of many ghostly stories about early crimes and punishments. We could still see the underground prisons and torture chambers. On display there too, were the shackles of the punishment and safe keeping of the prisoners, also the branding irons, used for criminals and servants, and the guillotine on which some poor fellow, with a little more spunk than wisdom was strapped and deprived of his head in the year 1853. A creepy feeling comes over you when strolling through places like this. Walter asked the guide, who spoke several different languages, just how such punishment, crimes and atrocities could be committed by a people who were supposed to be Christians. There just did not seem to be any sense or justice to it. He looked up and asked, "Are you Christians?" Walter told him we were. He said, "Then you are the worst! Have you heard about Korea? Well, as you tell me how there's any more sense or justice to those events than to what used to happen here? Are there not more unreasonable things than this going on in the world today?" It made us stop and think for a minute and wonder just what people living in the world one hundred or two hundred years from now looking back over history, will think about us. No doubt, that period will look like the most senseless, the most unjustifiable and the craziest through which man has ever passed.

But we could not let the chat get away with the idea that he had all the answers. He appeared so proud of his ability to answer all questions in all languages that we agreed to pose something more difficult. He was speaking in several different languages, answering questions in several languages which were there. We decided he knew only enough of those languages to answer the questions commonly asked there in the castle and so, this was one way to try him out. I lunged behind and got out my Norwegian dictionary. He had heard me speak English and so the tour ended. ("Jeg har hatt en uhyggelig med min bil. Hver et øyeblikk" which is in English "My car has just broken down. Where is a flurry of Norwegian at us and beckoned us to follow him; that we laughed and got up. We found out that he spoke and read nine different languages which is sufficient to be a wonder-boy with several degrees in America. But in Europe, he was merely one of several guides showing people around an old castle.

At Bruges, another old city out nearer the coast, also studded with many monuments of the Christians. It is a grand place with the market halls, the bell tower of the Holy Blood, the St. John's hospital, the museum of the old masters, where Rembrandt's paintings are on display. The old houses and beautiful architecture similar to Ghent make the history of Belgium like one long epic poem. (To be Continued)

The Poet's Corner

NO ANSWER

The owl spoke solemnly Out of the shadow of the tree That pressed too close, its mellow choly boughs Darkening the darkness of an old house: "Who?" said the owl, enquiring earnest-eyed. Nothing replied.

None answered; but the smile of a secure Folk of photograph and mirror Who crowded table, shelf and mantelpiece, Seemed to awake before the dawn could cease— Stared—listened—came an instant—then Died again.

—Audrey Alexandra Brown Montreal Star