

THE GUARDIAN

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CHARLOTTETOWN THURSDAY, FEB. 8, 1951

Synthetic Fibre Threat

Addressing the Canadian Sheep Breeders' Association recently, Dr. E. W. Stringham, animal science professor at the University of Manitoba, voiced a very timely warning. He pointed out that if wool prices maintain their present stratospheric levels for any length of time, synthetic fibres will make inroads into the market which may well prove permanent.

The action of several large United States carpet manufacturers in withdrawing entirely from the wool market will heighten the concern of those primary producers who do not regard prevailing high prices as an unmixed blessing. Though still justly prized, natural wool is by no means the indispensable product that it was before the recent impressive advance of the synthetic fibres industry.

The Winnipeg Free Press thus summarizes what has been happening: The type of wool used in making carpets sold a year ago for about 65 cents a pound. Shortly before Christmas it reached a level of \$1.67 (U.S.) and by the third week in January had soared to \$2.35. During the first phase of this advance the carpet manufacturers passed on the added costs to the consumer, prices rising about 46 per cent during 1950. The consumer, however, developed a profound lack of interest in carpets.

Under these circumstances the fabricators looked ahead and began experimenting with synthetic yarns. As early as July, 1950, three firms began offering wool-synthetic blends or all synthetic carpets. Their difficulty was that the synthetics industry was not at that time ready to take up the slack.

In the following estimates, however, it is likely that many primary producers will see the handwriting on the wall. For the period ending December 1950 it is calculated that only five per cent of total carpet output contained synthetics. Of production now underway it is reckoned that 33 per cent contains synthetic fibres. The fabricators probably have considerable supplies of wool on hand but since the United States price freeze makes it impossible for them to pass on increased costs to the consuming public, they will be under heavy pressure to utilize all the synthetic fibre that comes their way.

Eelgrass Coming Back

About twenty years ago eelgrass began to die out on the Atlantic coastline, the area of destruction extending gradually northward until the once familiar sea-weed was no more. Several times since then isolated patches of new growth made their appearance but they also fell victim to the original scourge which had been discovered to be a parasitic fungus.

The loss of the eelgrass brought many changes, depriving fish of both food and protection. It meant also that the underwater flats were now bare and that pollution of tidal waters became more serious than when the eelgrass exerted its stabilizing influence. Our Island farmers lost an ever replenished supply of fertilizer and ducks, particularly Brant, lost vital food supplies.

Now the Scientific American reports that up the bays and rivers where the water is less salt, the eelgrass is coming back. We hope it may be so, and that farmers and fishermen will benefit, but these attempted returns have occurred before though they have always been checked at an early date by further attacks of the fungus.

Potato Refuse Experiments

An additional outlet for Maritime potatoes is seen by the Moncton Times in experiments by researchers in Maine. Encouraged by a preliminary test in which refuse from a potato starch manufacture used with wood pulp had developed a paper of greater strength and fiber, experiments are proceeding at the paper mills in the border state, while University of Maine's paper and pulp department will make pilot tests to determine whether the process is successful and industrially practicable.

Our New Brunswick contemporary recalls that back in the 1930's a great deal of interest was aroused in that Province when Mr. Guy Porter of Andover, one of the potato belt magnates, vigorously championed the use of potatoes to produce industrial alcohol there. He was responsible for extensive experiments to discover

the potentialities of the scheme and the results, according to his contention, proved the feasibility of the extraction process. He was strong in his advocacy of the construction of a plant for this purpose in the Upper St. John river valley, but nothing ever developed.

The further progress with this new experiment in potatoes in Maine will be followed with interest by many persons and concerns in the Maritimes and elsewhere.

Against Dreary Speeches

The Education Committee of the Canadian Manufacturers' Association has issued a brochure of advice to public speakers, which the Ottawa Journal cites with warm approval.

"If it were read and studied and practised on a large scale by speech-makers", the Journal says, "we are quite sure the effects would be good. It has a stern warning, for example, against the reading of a speech, says no speech should be longer than 20 minutes, and pays some attention to the importance of a good stopping place avoiding repetition.

"One of the minor discomforts of this earth is the number of poorly-done speeches inflicted upon a long-suffering people. For this there is little excuse. With a few people public speaking is a natural gift. With the majority it is something to be learned, and most people can learn to talk with reasonable facility before an audience. If they will not bother to learn the simple arts of public oratory they should restrain that impulse to say a few words."

"The Canadian Manufacturers' Association, perhaps out of bitter experience, takes a particularly strong stand against the reading of speeches. Have abundant notes, it says, but no manuscript. That is excellent advice. A man reading a manuscript, which perhaps somebody else wrote, can be a pretty chilling spectacle—especially if he cannot read well, and few can."

EDITORIAL NOTES

Lent continues till March 25, Easter Sunday.

Those who continued in the fox business despite all discouragements are now likely to reap the reward for their faith and perseverance. The upsurge in fur prices is likely to continue.

Making Charlottetown the Diesel school centre for tuition is a compliment and distinction we appreciate. It will mean the steady attendance of five learners at one time, all the number which the Unions will allow.

Canada's 15-point defence programme is receiving widespread attention abroad. In it is the answer to the question of this country's status in world affairs as well as of her enthusiasm for the principles of the U. N.

Generalities with regard to our expectations in Preparedness business from Ottawa, should not be good enough for our commercial and political leaders. Nothing is done until it is done right, and we should be in a position to know definitely what work for employees is to be provided.

The deaths of eight infants in two years in the United States from overdoses of anti-histamine drugs, should not cause these weapons against allergy to be suspect, but like all the contents of the medicine chest, they should certainly be kept out of reach of small children.

Potatoes are selling for \$1.60 a bag in Hamilton and expected to go \$2.50 before the winter is over. As so often in the past, the grower who was able to store a considerable portion of his crop will probably come off fairly well even in a season which began disastrously.

Ottawa school-girls have been receiving instruction on how to cut up carcasses of beef, veal, mutton and pork. It is some satisfaction to note that there, at least, education is not limited to practical matters.

There will be no more scope for key-hole peeping Toms when doors are fitted with a lock devised by a Flensburg, Germany, inventor. It does away with door-knobs and keyholes. A simple pressure on a button will open or close the door; a twist will lock it with a pre-selected combination.

Jules Verne, French novelist, born this date 1828. Wrote a great number of much read novels in each of which the plot works round scientific or physiological fact; many have forecast recent developments such as the gramophone, cinematograph, airship, submarines, all translated into several languages. The best known are: "Round the World in Eighty Days"; "Twenty Thousand Leagues Under the Sea"; "The Mysterious Island"; and "Michael Strogoff."

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.

WHAT'S IN A NAME

Sir,—Not wishing to be regarded as didactic, arrogant, or in the class of "fools rush in where angels fear to tread", I would humbly suggest a couple of slight changes in the name chosen for Tourist Initiation Week. With due respect to the beautiful city, I think it advisable to substitute "P. E. Island" in place of Charlottetown—not circumscribing the orbit—take in as much territory as possible. It would be a foregone conclusion that the festival would take place at Charlottetown. Islanders abroad might infer that it is for the city alone. Our Island friends abroad form a big percentage of our tourists. They leave a lot of "where-withal" in this country.

I may be over-meticulous and picaresque, but the word "festive" sounds comparative — to a certain degree (as it were), "festivity" is superlative — "fait accompli". I am, Sir, etc., J. PENDERGAST Kensington, P.E.I.

ONTARIO QUERY ANSWERED

Sir,—Regarding your "query from Ontario" published February 5th, wherein "G.S.M." from Kinross asks us to explain why Maritime potatoes cost \$1.50 per bag in Trenton, Ont. while the grower receives only 45c a bag, we think it just as well to explain to the grower what is the real cause of the spread, and thus remove any suspicion that somewhere along the line excessive profits are enjoyed by the handlers.

In computing the cost let us take the following figures: Growers price, 45c a 75 lb. bag (costs only). Freight, Trenton 53c cwt., 39% per bag.

Heat and refer charges (total \$38.92), 5c (plus) per bag. Inspection, 3c. Marketing Board levy, 3c. Wholesale to retail in Trenton, 15c. Retailer's profit, 15c. Total—\$1.46 3/4.

Which leaves a profit of 3% for some dealer in the Province. It is clear therefore from the above that there is no mystery in spread in price. In fact the price should be higher in Trenton to give a proper level of profit to the dealer here.

We hope the above will clear the misunderstanding as evidenced by the afore mentioned letter. I am, Sir, etc., E. D. REID, Manager P.E.I. Potato Marketing Board, Charlottetown.

THE DRINK TRAFFIC

Sir,—Experience has made me what they call a "temperance crank". I have been thinking that any one who is indifferent to this vital question must either lack experience or have a heart of stone. Let me give you just a few instances of my contact with the effects of liquor.

I have gone out at night and separated drunken East Indians, fighting with knives which they gave to me to take home for safety. Wink's crest and the down-hill slanting come imponderably when, for some reason he can't analyze, a man stops looking for the next snowfall and begins to compare any mild spell or any spot of bare earth with such a strange thing as spring—New York Herald Tribune.

It is not a question of either the initial cost or the resultant upkeep of a child that should be considered by parents, either prospective or otherwise. You do not place a price tag on children. Children, while there is much argument to the contrary, are not to be classed as part of a family chattel, or something that is just an added burden to the already troublesome task of living. Far too often, young couples let the almighty dollar stand in the way of raising a family. In some cases this is the tough fact that the parents feel they will be unable to provide properly for their offspring. In other cases, and far too many, it is because of selfishness, in the misguided belief that children bring with them nothing but misery, unhappiness and loss of freedom. Both approaches to the question should be forgotten.— Brockville Recorder and Times.

A trapper and a tourist resort operator in this area believe that much attention should be given to publicizing beaver cutlets and bear steaks. Wallace McKee, Thor Lake trapper, estimates that about 30,000 pounds of beaver meat went to the dogs last year, and George Bishop, head of the Northern Outfitters Association, says the revenue from marketing the meat would be welcomed by the trappers. Beavers' livers have been served up as a soup delicacy, but they are inclined to be a bit on the oily side. The meat, however, is considered a real northern dish, and it is believed that tourists would smack their lips over a roasted tidbit from one of the cleanest animals in the forest. As for the marketing of bear meat, even Northerners are somewhat doubtful of the appeal it would make to the delicate southern palates. The secret of a successful marks in use.

The railway will never run short of these punch marks, for while there are 2,000 in use, the company has 1,800 more dies. Punch marks include the letters of the alphabet and animals and inanimate objects such as a star, a mushroom, a half-moon, a hatchet, an anchor, a fish, a trowel, the four symbols of playing cards, a horse's head and many others.

The Conductor's Punch

(Canadian National Magazine) Whenever you ride a train, the conductor punches your ticket to cancel it. Now, no two of these ticket punches are the same. Each punch, like a human fingerprint, leaves a mark that has no duplicate. This variety in punch marks is part of the Canadian National's accounting system.

The hole the conductor punched in your ticket today may make the outline of lady's head, a high button shoe or a top hat. In any event it will be unique, identifying only the conductor, but also the section of the CNR's lines over which you were travelling when the ticket was punched. There are 2,000 different punch

We'll Keep It Around Awhile



Notes By The Way

The United States, because it has stood unyieldingly, for the principle which is vital to the United Nations — resistance to aggression — has taken a good deal of unjust and unwarranted abuse in recent weeks. But where, it may be asked, would be United Nations, the last best hope of mankind, be today if it were not for the idealism and devotion to a great cause of the United States people and the courage of their troops in Korea?—Winnipeg Free Press.

When brilliant economists and bankers are at odds on effective methods of controlling rising prices a layman, without too much trepidation, may venture to point out where the experts disagree on the influence that high taxes exert in overcoming inflation. There is an important school of economic thinkers who maintain the best way to fight inflation is to decrease the public's purchasing power by taking the people's money away from them by heavy taxes. This school theorizes that prices will not be pushed up if there is no excessive buying pressure. The assumption is that markets are auctions in which purchasers bid against one another for scarce articles. An eminent economist in the U. S. — Prof. Sumner H. Slichter, of Harvard University, has examined the question and in a recent article he makes the definite statement "an increase in the corporate income tax is certainly an incentive for corporations to raise prices." He says the level of tax on profits raises the prices at which enterprises are willing to supply goods, and in a seller's market most companies are in a position to pass on fairly promptly an increase in the corporate income tax. It is common knowledge that high personal income taxes help to induce demands for higher wages. The Canadian public have had it dinned into their ears that high taxes are the best weapon against increasing prices and inflation. Prof. Slichter's article presents another viewpoint. — Toronto Telegram.

President MacKenzie says that salaries of all members of the staff at the University of British Columbia should be increased by \$1,000 a year. He has thus focused attention on a state of affairs at the university that will surprise outsiders. For there, highly trained academic men who have spent years studying and have won high degrees are being paid only what uneducated and untrained day laborers earn.—Vancouver News-Herald.

When women dream of the house they would like to live in, cupboard space, clothes closets and "easy-to-fast" surfaces are high on the list. When men dream houses they vision few windows, on which double windows will have to be put in position, after cleaning at least three surfaces. Then men always dream about a room for themselves and it might be noted that remains a dream with all but a few.—Moose Jaw Times-Herald.

It is an old winter's tale, one a countryman has heard repeated many times in snowdrifts, icicles and sometimes in a January thaw, that a man gets just so far into winter and then starts coming out the other side. Exactly what is winter's half-way mark is not always established by forenoon sun on the side of the barn, nor by added light at morning milking time. It is not even set, perhaps, by finding February about to come up on the kitchen calendar. Wink's crest and the downhill slanting come imponderably when, for some reason he can't analyze, a man stops looking for the next snowfall and begins to compare any mild spell or any spot of bare earth with such a strange thing as spring.—New York Herald Tribune.

Prayer For Spiritual Help Is Urged

(Canon Haslam in Globe and Mail) These are days when those of us of advanced years would find something to arrest the march of communism on the "Freedoms of the world" and, at the same time, relieve the noble, brave UN soldiers are making in Korea to that end. Here is a suggestion: At the close of the First World War (1914-1918) I was conducting an Armistice service at a hill station in India. In the course of an address reference was made to the experience of our soldiers at Mons, when a force of Prussian cavalry bore down on the single line of Allied forces, defending Paris. There was a veritable debacle of the cavalry, as the German riders, for some unaccountable reason, could not force their horses forward.

The explanation given at the time was that angels stood between the Prussians and that thin line. I spoke guardedly, saying: "If the report of the angels at Mons were true, etc., etc." At the close of the service a visiting British general spoke to me and said, "Padre I again you have occasion to refer to the angels at Mons," do not speak conjecturally or uncertainly. I was there and saw for myself. It is perfectly true.

When "horses and chariots, and a great host came by night and compassed the City of Dothan," about to take the prophet Elisha, his servant reported this to his master, in the morning saying: "Alas, my master! how shall we do?" Elisha prayed, and said: "Lord, I pray Thee, open his eyes, that he may see. And the Lord opened the eyes of the young man, and he saw; and behold the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire round about Elisha." (II Kings 6: 13-17).

When in Gethsemane, our Lord was betrayed by Judas Iscariot, and Peter, to defend his Lord, drew his sword our Lord rebuked him, and said: "Thinkest thou that I cannot now pray to My Father, and He shall presently give Me more than twelve legions of angels?" (Matthew 26: 53).

I share the conviction that as conflict with communism is not an ordinary warfare, but is a struggle against an ideology, carried on by devotees who have virtually made it their religion, and that it can only be met effectively by spiritual force. This is not incidental with most careful military preparation, but is a plea for concerted prayer to God for the discomfiture of the hosts of communism, by Divine means, and for God's guidance of our allied leaders.

Memoirs Of The Hon. A. E. Arsenault

Former Premier and Retired Justice Supreme Court of Prince Edward Island

Law Studies In London (Continued)

Lord Russell loved to gamble and would lay a bet on almost anything. It is related that he and his bosom friend, Sir Frank Lockwood, K.C., were lounging one hot summer day in their chairs at their club when, suddenly, Lord Russell straightened in his chair and pointed to the ceiling. "Frank!" he exclaimed. "I'll lay you a guinea that the fly on my side flies away before the one on your side." "Done!" said Lockwood. Lord Russell and Sir Frank Lockwood were inseparable friends. Before Lord Russell went on the Bench, he, Sir Frank Lockwood, and two other K.C.'s went on a business trip together to Paris. On leaving Paris they started to play poker, continued until they got to Cherbourg, resumed playing aboard the boat and continued until they reached Dover, resumed playing when they got aboard their train, and continued until they had to be told by the porter that they were in London.

Before I left for England, a lady in Charlottetown asked me if I would look up the inscription on her mother's tomb. Her mother, she said, was buried in Kensal Green Cemetery on the outskirts of London. I promised to copy the inscription for her, and after I had been in London for some weeks, I thought I should fulfill my promise. After some enquiries, I took the proper horse tram and, after travelling 14 or 15 miles, I reached the cemetery.

It was a huge place, and to locate a grave there was a little less difficult than to find a needle in the proverbial haystack. However, I located the keeper and told him what I was seeking for. He scratched his head a moment and then said, "In my mind's eye I can see that monument, and many times I have seen it, but I have never seen it, but you will have to wait. But I'll find the inscription for you, and if you'll send me your London address, I'll leave it to you."

He was as good as his word, for in about a week's time he sent me the inscription.

In those days, the best way to see London was by travelling on the horse trams. As I was free on that day to take a bus, sit close to the driver, tip him a few pennies, and have him point out all the interesting places and answer my many questions. At the end of the run, I would take another tramway and return by another route. The drivers were expert in their work. So skillfully could they drive that in the most crowded sections of London they could almost shave each other's carriage. Such close shaves would bring a flood of abuse from one or both of the drivers, and they would continue to yell and abuse each other as far as their voices would carry, to the amusement of the passengers for whose enjoyment those performances were frequently carried out.

Old Charlottetown (And P. E. I.)

I was also intrigued by the facts of some of the residents of the world's largest city. In Hyde Park one may see men and women standing motionless for long periods waiting for small birds to come and take food from their hands and even from their lips. One day on my second trip to England, I followed an old lady up Fleet Street and Chesapeake. She had a large bag in her arms, and when she came to a team of dry horses she would stop, give each horse a bun and an apple and a few pats on the neck, then move on to repeat the performance with the next team she met.

So long as the weather was not too cold one could see many men and women selling pencils, boot-laces, and trinkets of various kinds on the street. In the winter, I did not see nearly so many of those people. I asked a clergyman who ministered to the poor in the Whitechapel district where those street vendors went in the winter. He said they went to the "Well." He answered, "they don't live; many of them just die off like flies."

There were also the flower girls who congregated in such places as Piccadilly Circus, around the figure of Eros (the God of Love), and at the flower stalls in the "Dials." Though they are called "flower girls", those vendors are mostly old women, many of whom have been selling flowers so long they have become as well known to many Londoners as Eros himself. They, too, have a hard time of it during the winter months.

One of the interesting places which visitors to London should see is the General Post Office. The staff alone would populate a small town, for it is not only a Post, but a Telegraph office as well. There is a small staff of experts who do nothing else but decipher peculiar addresses, for strangely enough, there are people in London, and elsewhere also, who take delight in trying to puzzle those experts. I had copied a number of those peculiar addresses but, unfortunately, have lost the book. From memory, however, I can recall a few of them.

One was addressed to Paul Jones, with a drawing below the name showing a street with hens and a rooster on it. The experts were not long in deciding that Mr. Jones must live on Poultry Street. Another was merely a drawing depicting Dana Gibson, creator of the American Girl. It reached Gibson all right. A peculiar one was addressed to "Mr. William Smith, or any other intelligent Smith in London." As the London directory has pages and pages of Smiths, the story does not say which of them, if any, received the letter.

The Poet's Corner

PROPHET Who turns a furrow of good black loam, The sun in his eyes or the rain in his hair, Driving the plowshare straight to the turning, In the language of earth is making a prayer. Who scatters grain in the long true furrow, And shuts it away from the friendly skies, Leaving it there in the weather's keeping, Proclaims his faith, and he prophesies. —Yelza Gillespie

Old Charlottetown (And P. E. I.)

BAPTIST ASSOCIATION "A meeting was held at North River for the purpose of organizing a Baptist Association for the Island. It commenced on Saturday last, the 18th inst., and closed on Tuesday, the 21st inst., at noon. The Association was duly formed. It comprises all the Baptist churches on the Island, thirteen in the whole, with upwards of six hundred members. The meetings held on the occasion were largely attended and awakened a great deal of interest.

The first annual meeting of the Island Baptist Home Mission Society was held in connection with that of the Association. An encouraging report was presented, while the treasury showed a small balance on hand. The Society enters on its second year with cheerfulness and hope.

"On Lord's Day, the 19th inst., the new Baptist Meeting House at North River was opened. Three sermons were delivered on the occasion; that in the morning by the Rev. J. Davis, that in the afternoon by the Rev. G. F. Miles, of Nova Scotia, and that in the evening by the Rev. Theodore Porter, of Cape Breton. The attendances were overflowing. In the morning the old Meeting House was filled, and more than filled, as well as the new, while the Rev. W. H. Porter addressed the congregation. Good collections were taken for the building fund."

—The Islander, July 31, 1888.

The Age-Old Story

Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits; who forgiveth all thine iniquities; who healeth all thy diseases.

COMPLETE VISUAL REFRACTION and ANALYSIS G. F. HUTCHESON & SON Optometrists 85 Grafton St