

THE GUARDIAN

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"The Strongest Memory is Weaker Than the Weakest Ink"

CHARLOTTETOWN, MONDAY, NOV. 19, 1951

No Price Tags

With a heated general election campaign nearing its close in Ontario, the Financial Post complains that on far too many political promises, there is nary a sign of a price tag, no hint of the bills in taxes that must follow as surely as night follows the day.

"Even after making due and generous allowance for the difference between pre-election promises and actual delivery," it says, "it must be apparent to all but the most gullible that we are drifting into pretty deep water. No reputable firm offers a product to the public without the price tag being clearly displayed. Only trouble results for both seller and buyer when someone agrees to take something he can't really afford.

"Unless we put a stop to this costly business in political campaigns, unless we insist on the real price tag being firmly attached to every promise, we are going to wake up some morning and find that either the state or the bailiff has taken over." Here is another phase of electoral reform that might well be included in the proposals for discussion by our Federation of Agriculture.

Saving The Soil

Beneficial effects of rain are well known, but soil damage from the force of falling raindrops is often overlooked. "Farm News" quotes a research authority as stating that the weight of water falling on an acre of land in an inch of rain is nearly 110 tons, and the drops striking bare soil splash about 22.5 tons of clay or loam.

Water is as important as fertility for growing crops so it is essential to hold it where it falls. Experiments at the Swift Current Soil Research Laboratory show that an inch of rainfall on a bare clay or loam soil reduces the infiltration rate to approximately one-third of an inch an hour. If the rainfall is of greater intensity than this, the excess will become the runoff water. This runoff becomes very high during an intense rain, and is capable of carrying a great load of soil with consequent severe erosion.

Nature's answer is a cushion of organic matter of plants or dead undercomposed plant material. This breaks the force of the falling raindrops and no soil is lost, but the water gently finds its way into the sub-soil for storage and future use by growing crops.

The simplest way to save the soil and hold the rain where it falls, is to protect the surface of the soil from the force of the raindrops with a suitable plant or straw mulch cover.

International Wheat Agreement

The International Wheat Agreement, now in its third year of operation, has something over a year to run before reaching its expiry date on July 31, 1953. Its operations will shortly be due for close scrutiny by farmers and their organizations, as well as by the governments of importing and exporting countries.

Article 22 of the Agreement requires the International Wheat Council to formulate its recommendations and make them known to both importing and exporting countries on or before July 31, 1952. The Canadian Government, with a representative on the Council, will undoubtedly be interested in the probable effect of such recommendations on wheat marketing policy in this country. It is reasonable to expect, therefore, that the wheat policy will almost certainly be brought under review during the current session of the Federal Parliament.

The Minister of Trade and Commerce recently announced that Canada will continue to charge an additional six cents carrying charge on wheat sold under the International Wheat Agreement; Australia and the United States also continue to make this additional charge. The right of the exporting countries to levy these carrying charges under the terms of the Agreement has been questioned by a number of importing countries, including the United Kingdom. Protest has been lodged with the International Wheat Council and a ruling is expected to be given at the next meeting of the Council toward the end of October.

Friendly With The Soviets

Whatever they may be politically, the social relationship of the Canadian Government with that of the Soviet is of the friendliest. The Montreal Gazette announces that the Russian Embassy at Ottawa was busy with entertaining when the Western World launched its peace offensive recently. Some 350 guests turned up to partake of rare champagnes, delicious caviar and eye-catching salads as Russia's official representatives in Ottawa celebrated the 34th anniversary of the founding of the Soviet state. Prime Minister St. Laurent was among them. Perhaps he remembered a previous occasion when he was photographed with officials beneath the larger-than-life portrait of Joseph Stalin hanging in the Embassy's square hall. Finance Minister Abbott dropped in briefly as representative of the Government. The External Affairs Department sent along its chief protocol. The old Charlotte Street residence was jam-packed with visitors. But it was evident that, to an increasing extent, Diplomatic Row was sending junior officers, with their chiefs—despite the excellent cuisine—staying home.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Jay walkers are now liable to a 50c fine in Calgary under a new civic by-law.

The Royal Winter Fair, Toronto, following the Winter Fair at Amherst, has added lustre to the reputations of Island agriculturalists.

Halifax is being theoretically (and vicariously) A-bombed today and splashed with radio-active sea-water in an army exercise at Port Hope near Kingston.

The very high percentage of successfully established veterans under the V.L.A. here is most gratifying for it is in contrast to the record of square pegs in round holes after the First World War.

Britain clung to a managed economy and devaluation. France in the main followed an opposite course but both find that they must further reduce dollar expenditures. Apparently there is no substitute for a healthy export trade.

The Man in the Iron Mask died this date 1705. A mysterious figure of great romantic interest in French history, he was a political prisoner in the Bastille in the reign of Louis XIV. His name was never told but he always wore a black velvet mask.

The immediate investigation ordered by Australia's Army Minister is certainly wise in the charges made at second hand that an Australian soldier was kept chained in Canadian military custody. If, as is remotely possible, there is truth in the complaint, those responsible require severe disciplining.

Over ninety per cent of advertising agency executives expect more money to be spent on advertising in 1952 than in 1951. The report was based on an informal poll taken by the American Association of Advertising Agencies and it was released at the closing session of the two-day Eastern annual conference of the AAAA last week.

Earnings of Canadian labor are continuing to rise faster than living costs. Actual increase in labor's buying power since 1946 hasn't been large. But at least it isn't a loss. Latest figures show that for every dollar which labor earned in 1946, \$1.65 is now forthcoming. But if advances in the cost of living are taken into account, labor's gains are much less. Increased purchasing power, on the average, has increased only from \$1 to \$1.08.

A rolling stone which gathered a little moss. Islwyn Roberts, 37, of Merioneth, Wales, reached Liverpool last week after hitch-hiking across Canada and back since April. He left home with two dollars in his pocket and a knap-sack on his back. He returned with two new suitcases and \$290—earned as a railway labourer, miner, farmer, laundryman, hotel handyman, cattle-food maker, errand-boy and bowling alley pin boy.

New U. S. aid for Britain is a sure bet, says News Week. But another outright loan is unlikely: That would be political poison for Truman. This time the economic boost will be supplied by less formal means. For example, the U. S. will quietly buy overseas and give to the United Kingdom needed materials usually bought with profits of the now sagging British export trade. As one means of easing its burden London may seek easier terms on its present \$3,750,000,000 loan. That's the one granted in 1946. It may ask a lower interest rate and repayment stretched over 100 years instead of 50 Congress might be sympathetic.



Leaving Their Mark

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.

ISLAND VISIT ENJOYED

Sir,—Having been a visitor to your beautiful Island from July 15th to September 10th, I thought I would write you that I enjoyed your City, with its bustling stores, your Government building, the rivers and harbors, the green fields and golden grain, and your red roads, and lovely trees. I was interested in the cemeteries, where so many of my ancestors lay, my father being born in New Glasgow, growing up there, teaching school there and in Rustico, then coming to California in 1869 and marrying my mother in the mining country. He never ceased telling about his home, and I always had an intense desire to go to his homeland, and visit with the cousins there; and now my desire has been granted, and I have been thrilled seeing Green Gables, the Johnstone gardens, and all the relatives, and want to thank them all, with their many friends for making my visit to the beautiful Island a never-to-be-forgotten event.

We come from the Rev. John Stevenson family, who came from Scotland in 1820, settling in New Glasgow, and spreading his family of six sons and six daughters all through the Dominion and also the United States. I enjoyed particularly the churches with their beautiful music, and inspiring sermons. I am, Sir, etc. ANNA C. LOOMER, Oakland California.

PREACHING THE WORD

Sir,—While reading your article in the editorials on Thursday, entitled "Maginot Line Mentality," I thought of how true this is in so many ways but particularly in relation to the spiritual side of the matter, and man's outlook for the Eternal Future. It is quite evident to those who converse with people about these matters, that there is a false security which is expressed in such statements as: "I never did anything wrong"; "I follow the golden rule"; "I think if a man does the best he can he'll get to heaven at last"; "We are all the Children of God, and God will take care of us"; "What is the cause of this false security?" I think much of the blame is to be laid upon the preaching from the modern pulpit, with its absence of plainly stating before the people such foundation truths as, Man's utter ruin by nature, and guilt before God. Rom. 3-19; also that he is in real danger of being lost forever, Mat. 7-13; "Wide is the gate and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be that go in thereat; because straight is the gate and narrow is the way that leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it."

Also the absolute necessity of the new Birth; without which Jesus said, "Ye cannot see the kingdom of God," John 3-3 and the setting before each man and woman, Jesus Christ and Him crucified 1 Cor. 1-29, as the only way to Heaven; not as an example to follow; (true as this is for the believer) but as a Saviour to trust. John 3-16. These are foundation truths of the Bible, which if we dispense with we may as well throw our Bibles away. Where in modern pulpits language, do such expressions as were used by Bishop Ryle of Liverpool, C. H. Spurgeon of London, Edwards of America, Wesley, Whitfield, Moody and others come in: "Conviction of sin," "Soul trouble," "The wrath to come," "Sinner in the hands of an angry God," "Hell from beneath is moved for these

The Poet's Corner

SONNET TO A PIG

My portly, grunting, squealing porcine friend, Voluptuous, vociferating shote, No love-song more sincere was ever penned Nor was the poet's loved one more remote! My animated porkchop, condescend To grace the menu of my table d'hote. Ah, fainting bank account, I can pretend A slight indisposition of the throat! I love each juicy sparerib in your frame, Your roasts are what my thoughts keep dwelling on, And in my dreams you promise to be mine: Last night at dusk your lovely vision came, But with the cruel lamplight you were gone. O, priceless piggy, be my Valentine! —Gene Plasterer.

ON ADAM SMITH

Sir,—Your recent editorial, "The New Mercantilism" shocked me to the point of indignation. Here was the purified arm of the infamous Adam Smith being held high as the beacon to guide the world through the waters of "crackpot economics" to monetary sanity!

Who, I ask, is disproportionately responsible for today's mess? Let us investigate. Adam Smith was born in 1723 and lived a life of reverence towards the rampant eighteenth century "enlightenment". It remained for him to write the century's classic, "The Wealth of Nations". Of it one man has succinctly written: "Since Adam Smith, who published his book in 1776, we have been told that competition is the life of trade and that it is a case of the survival of the fittest. So since 1776 looking for markets has engaged men's activities. And since trade follows the flag, industrial nations have become imperialist nations..."

Adam Smith, then, has been the god of modern capitalism. His was the doctrine of laissez-faire—let business alone and there will be prosperity, peace; let no government interfere. This was the slogan during a century of ruthless exploitation by individuals and nations. Then came the reaction. Karl Marx in 1848 formulated his socialism and offered it to the millions as a cure to low wages, poverty, slums, and entire domination by the moneyed class. Politicians were carried to the parliaments as a result of their cry for popular justice and soon a wave of reform bills swept over Europe. Govern-

Old Charlottetown

(And P. E. I.) REPAIRS TO BIG DONALD

Reference was made recently to the old City fire bell, named Big Donald after Fire Chief Donald MacKinnon, which became cracked while being rung violently during a serious fire on Oct. 28, 1877. It was located in the tower of the old wooden Market Building, and its repair was entrusted to James Butcher. The crack was found to be two feet six inches in length. According to The Examiner of Nov. 20, 1877, Mr. Butcher did a good repair job, but the City Council thought otherwise. When his bill of \$70 for slitting the bell was presented, the Council complained "that the work was not satisfactory, as a crack was reported visible five inches above the end of the slit, and that Mr. Butcher had agreed to do the work for \$40." They thought it better to send the bell back to the founders and get a new one.

Mr. Butcher argued that it cost him \$60 for labour alone, that he had bored a hole an inch and a half above the original crack but that during the operation it extended an additional seven inches. He then bored above the new-made crack and slit it downwards. He thought the sum of seventy dollars a reasonable amount for his work.

Presumably as a public test it was formally resolved by the Council "that the fire bell 'Big Donald' be rung tomorrow morning at nine o'clock." The Examiner of the following day reports that "Big Donald was yesterday morning tested", but unfortunately does not say with what result. It is known, however, that the bell was subsequently shipped back to Boston to be recast.

The Age-Old Story

For the Lord God is a sun and shield: the Lord will give grace and glory: no good thing will be withheld from them that walk uprightly.

Books Received

20TH MERIDIAN, by Robert Travers (in Canada, George J. McLeod, Ltd., 288 pp. \$4). The focus of an American merchant ship in wartime is not a drawing-room, but there is no lack of interesting yarns and Robert Travers gives them to the reader very nearly as he might have expected to hear them told. The fact that the S.S. Branten sailed from London with a full cargo of whisky serves as a core around which many a yarn is twisted to form a novel which is as sound as hemp cordage but not without a dab of pitch.

A SAILOR'S TREASURY by Frank Shay, illustrated by Edward A. Wilson (in Canada, George J. McLeod, Ltd., 198 pp. \$5). Soft-water man (definition, the professional seaman's term for yachtsmen and amateur sailors. "Any one who would go to sea for pleasure would go to hell for a vacation") and landlubbers will truly

find this a treasury of all things nautical. The lore, myths and superstitions, legends and yarns, the cry, epithets and speech of the sailorman, especially the American sailorman unfortunately, have been lovingly collected by the author, from the Isle of Demons shown on many ancient maps and believed to be in the Gulf of St. Lawrence, to a metrical list of the necessary contents of a sea-chest.

CANADIAN SALES AND EXCISE TAX GUIDE (CCH Canadian Ltd., 240 pp. \$2). The sales tax is intended to apply only once in the course of manufacture of a product or its being imported and this volume, now in its 2nd edition, should prove helpful in keeping track of what should and should not be paid. The collection of the acts, regulations and Government releases on these taxes and their careful indexing is a most useful service to the businessman. I am, Sir, etc. G. K. Charlottetown, R.R. 3.

Lessons From Europe In Community Progress

By Leo P. McIsaac Part Two (continued) (All Rights Reserved) LOCAL REVIEW

To verify some often repeated assumptions regarding well-founded local trends and conditions, a preliminary survey was made throughout Prince Edward Island of:

- 1. A number of business organizations. 2. Certain utilities and public services and, 3. Many representative country districts.

This survey indicates the general trends and conditions prevalent in Prince Edward Island. It would take a great deal of time to make a thorough study of these questions, but the following cross-section survey emphasizes the situation on the Island, and shows how serious are our problems. The results of this study will be presented in several sections, under the following headings: Resources and Distribution, Government and Public Services, Local Organizations, Education, and Migration of Youth.

Table with 2 columns: Production and Consumption. Rows for Butter, Cheese, and P.E.I., N.S., N.B. Total production and consumption figures.

RESOURCES & DISTRIBUTION

In this survey, much time was spent in obtaining statistics on the production, consumption and distribution of a number of the primary products—farming and fishing. It suggested that most of our economic problems in the Maritime Provinces could be solved by: (1) an orderly method of distribution of our products within these Provinces, (2) utilizing our own capital and resources in the Maritimes to develop small industries to supply many of our domestic needs, and (3) growing more food products which we can process to the point of being ready for immediate consumption before exporting them.

Dairy Products

At the present time in Prince Edward Island, there are fifteen creameries, nine cheese factories and three ice cream plants. Comparative figures for the average annual production and consumption of dairy products for the Maritimes for the year 1949 and 1950 are as follows:

Table with 2 columns: Production and Consumption. Rows for Butter, Cheese, and P.E.I., N.S., N.B. Total production and consumption figures.

DEFICIENCY AREA

Pork production figures change from year to year according to the price, but consumption figures follow the price trend also. Therefore we can use the official 1949 figures as an illustration. In 1949, there were about 290,000 hogs produced in the Maritimes which would average about 150 lbs. of meat each, giving us 43 1/2 million lbs. of pork products. The average consumption rate of pork products for Canada that year was 56.8 lbs. per person, which means that the people of the three Maritime Provinces probably used over 66 million lbs. of pork. Such figures indicate that we are actually a deficiency area.

Yet, what do we find in the price situation, in respect to both producers and consumers? Instead of prices of livestock to producers being established according to local demand in a deficiency area, prices are continually established on the assumption that the Maritimes is a surplus area and that we must accept prices on the Montreal market (which is the nearest large distributing center), less freight and handling charges from the Maritimes.

Actually, Maritime prices should, if the supply and demand formula were really allowed to work, be based on Montreal plus the cost of getting the shortage down here. This would mean three cents per pound extra. However, if all Maritime hog production were distributed in the Maritimes (most of it is, at present) and even if additional hogs were imported from Upper Canada, this would mean at least two cents per pound, or \$3.09 per average hog more, that P.E.I. farmers should be getting. The number of hogs now marketed from Prince Edward Island each year averages about 90,000 through packing plants and 10,000 small pigs and breeding stock shipped alive. On the market this means an average total loss of at least \$288,000 per year. At the same time, Maritime consumers are paying, not only the same prices as in Upper Canada, but they are also paying the top prices for the products of Grade B, C, and D, hogs on which the price to farmers is lower. It is a well known fact that the "grade stamp" is seldom carried through to the domestic market.

Livestock

In the livestock marketing field, figures prove that under the present system, in Prince Edward Island, farmers are losing an amount sufficient to pay for a completely equipped abattoir almost every year. Even in the three Maritime Provinces we are not generally a surplus producing area in our pork production; in fact, if we include Newfoundland in our calculations, we are definitely a

Table with 4 columns: Cattle, Calves, Totals, 1949, 1950, From Jan. 1, 1950 to Jan. 31, 1950, From Jan. 1, 1951 to July 31, 1951.

This includes only cattle shipped through commercial channels—not those killed at home or in local unlicensed butcher shops. (The above figures are published by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics.)

Space does not permit a thorough analysis of marketing, but perhaps one illustration will be sufficient to provoke some thinking, both on the part of producers and consumers. From November 1949 to November 1950, the average retail price

of commercial beef steers from the packing companies to retail distributors in Halifax, Saint John, Moncton, Montreal and Toronto varied less than 1/4 of a cent per pound cold weight. Yet on the producers' markets, Charlottetown, Moncton, compared with Montreal and Toronto, we find the prices paid to producers over the same period averaged from 3 1/2 to 3 3/4 cents less per pound live weight. (To be continued)

ANCIENT BUILDERS

The first bridge across the Thames at London, England, is believed to have been constructed in A. D. 43.

ACCEPT OFFER

NEWCASTLE, New Brunswick (CP)—The Newcastle Town Council has accepted an offer of Lord Beaverbrook to donate the old United Church manse here for use as a library. Lord Beaverbrook bought the manse, his boyhood home, several months ago. He visited Newcastle this week and is expected to return soon.

For Men's Clothing That Fits J.P. MacPherson & Son 157 Queen St.