

WEDNESDAY, OCT. 13, 1954

**Beautifying The Countryside**

Congratulations are in order for the winners of the ninth annual competition sponsored by the Prince Edward Island Beautification Society. The competition gets keener each year and there is no doubt that many who did not get even a mention would have been prize winners a few years ago. It is certainly not necessary to locate the property of winners in order to observe the great improvement which is largely due to the interest aroused by the annual competition.

Home, school and community improvement has reached a point where the neglected property is now noticeable rather than the carefully tended one. It is true that years of prosperity have made considerable expenditure possible but prosperity alone would not have been enough. During harder years and then the war there was a distinct falling off of pride in well-kept premises. Without some extra incentive it would have been difficult to revive interest making farms, homes, schools, cemeteries and highways pleasant to look upon as well as utilitarian.

The directors of the society give a great deal of time and effort towards its objectives and farmers and others throughout the Province devote time to improving their own properties and the general appearance of their community which they could undoubtedly put to other purposes. All of us, however, and our visitors as well, profit by the effort to make the Island truly the Garden of the Gulf and a well-tended garden.

**A Problem For Dr. Malan**

It is commonly known that South Africa's Nationalist Party, led by the present Prime Minister, Dr. Daniel Malan, is established on two main factors: anti-British sentiment and white supremacy, which means discrimination against and even persecution of all other races within its borders. On more than one occasion Dr. Malan has threatened to break all ties with the Commonwealth because there are so many people of "coloured" blood in it. Recently, however, there has been a noticeable decline in anti-British propaganda, not because Dr. Malan has more affection for the British than he used to have, but because he is coming round to the view that a British-South African defence pact would be the only instrument likely to be of much help to his country in time of war, the United States having shown very little interest in taking South Africa into close association.

Latest reports say that, while the British Government is not averse to some military understanding with South Africa on purely business terms, there will have to be some drastic changes made in that country's domestic policy before any serious consideration of a formal pact would be justified. This is so because the co-operation of the large Negro population would be essential in time of war; and at the moment there is no reason to suppose that that co-operation would be forthcoming. Furthermore, the Negroes have had no training whatsoever in any kind of skill that would be useful for military purposes.

It seems, therefore, that Dr. Malan is fast coming to the point where he will have to choose between his inhuman treatment of non-white peoples and British help in time of need. It would be ironic, indeed, though not unjust, if a Government whose political power was built on anti-British sentiment and racial discrimination should have to forsake both in order to be in a position to protect itself from outside aggression.

**Moral Leadership**

While a few of the State Legislatures in the segregated areas are toying with the idea of "private" schools as a means of getting around the Supreme Court anti-segregation ruling, North Carolina continues to take a more realistic and more practical approach to the problem. According to a statement issued by the State Attorney-General the State will present oral arguments on Dec. 6, the day appointed by the Court for considering implementation of its decree. Meanwhile, the Governor of the State says that "while North Carolina's course has not been charted, the problem as I see it is to establish a policy and a program which will preserve the public schools by having the support of the people." The Governor has appointed an advisory Committee, three members of which are Negro educators, whose job it will be to find ways and means of preserving and strengthening the school system and, what is even more important—although the Governor did not

say so—to provide for State implementation of the Court order when it is finally promulgated.

The authorities in North Carolina, as elsewhere, have been much hindered by irresponsible and demagogic persons who persist in making political capital out of social and racial enmities. On the other hand they have been much encouraged by some religious leaders—not all of them by any means—who have come out boldly for desegregation, not only in obedience to a judicial edict, but in the belief that, ultimately, racial equality will prove to be socially beneficial to all concerned, and, further, that discrimination is morally indefensible. Foremost among those who are giving badly needed moral leadership at this time is the Most Rev. Vincent S. Waters, Bishop of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Raleigh which takes in most of the State.

In a recent letter to Catholic High School officials Bishop Waters directed them to "register and accept for class all Catholic High School students, no matter to what race they belong, provided they are Catholics and qualified for High School work." At the same time he ordered all Diocesan hospitals to admit all needy patients without discrimination as to race, colour, or economic status. Roman Catholics constitute a relatively small minority in the State of North Carolina; but, in taking vigorous leadership in a situation fraught with danger, they are giving impetus to the advance of a social ideal and, at the same time, they are showing well intentioned but faint-hearted citizens that there is no particular virtue in timidity and hesitancy when only prompt, decisive action can bring good results.

**U. S. Farm Surpluses**

The United States government, notes the Ottawa Citizen, has set itself the task of disposing of an accumulation of wheat, cotton, fats and oils, and other farm products acquired through its long-standing policy of high price supports for these basic commodities. Canada and other exporting countries, understandably, are anxious about the effect on their own trade of this unloading program. They have had assurances during the past several months that Washington will do everything in its power to prevent a dislocation of markets, yet this may be difficult to accomplish, and the anxiety remains.

Mr. Harold Stassen, U. S. Foreign Operations Administration director, has repeated these assurances during his visit to the meeting of Colombo Plan participants at Ottawa. The American plan, he says, is to dispose of surpluses only to countries which have already made their normal purchases through normal channels of supply. This would mean extra supplies of wanted produce which presumably the receiving countries would otherwise go without.

Yet the task of disposal is an enormous one. Negotiations are now proceeding for the sale abroad of American surplus farm products to the value of \$384 million (total stocks in government bonds are valued at about one billion), much of which is represented by bread grains in which Canada is keenly interested. It still remains a question whether these supplies can be insulated from the regular market in such a way as to have no damaging effect on prices. Moreover, the U. S. administration has not yet fully succeeded in its drive to bring its domestic farm support program under control so as to discourage excessive production.

The opposite risk, notes The Citizen, is that lowered farm supports might in time induce scarcity conditions. Perhaps the final answer to a difficult problem is international action, through a world food bank, to provide needy countries with the food Mr. Stassen is now trying to distribute by unilateral action. Dislocation of other people's markets might then be avoided or at least reduced to a minimum.

**EDITORIAL NOTES**

The City Council Chamber has frequently been the scene of dramatic incidents so that tonight's talk by the director of the Dominion Drama Festival should have an appropriate atmosphere.

Even to the judiciary taxation is no longer merely a means of raising funds but also a political weapon. Mr. Justice Thorson, president of the Exchequer Court of Canada, for instance, has declared: "In my view, Income Tax is the greatest instrument of social reform that man has yet devised. It has enabled us to go as far as we have gone in establishing the welfare state."

Greenwich was universally adopted for the prime meridian this date 1884. In a series of international conferences between 1891 and 1928 agreement was reached on numerous points for an international map of the world. Standard colours for altitudes, a metric system for units, contours, and for the grid have been accepted. The use of contours was originally introduced by Cruguias in 1768.



Singin' In The Rain

**The Poet's Corner**

**LEISURE**  
 What is this life, if full of care,  
 We have no time to stand and stare?  
 No time to stand beneath the boughs,  
 And stare as long as sheep or cows,  
 No time to see, when woods we pass,  
 Where squirrels hide their nuts in grass,  
 No time to see, in broad daylight,  
 Streams full of stars, like stars at night,  
 No time to turn at Beauty's glance,  
 And watch her feet, how they can dance,  
 No time to wait till her mouth can  
 Enrich that smile her eyes began.  
 A poor life this if, full of care,  
 We have no time to stand and stare.  
 —William Henry Davies.

**Meyer, Nazi General**

(Ottawa Journal)  
 Lt. Col. Bruce MacDonald's book, The Trial of Kurt Meyer (Clarke, Irwin and Co., Toronto), has gone on sale less than a month after the German general was released from prison to be welcomed by his family and former SS comrades.  
 Colonel MacDonald as chief prosecutor of war criminals for the Canadian forces led the case against Kurt Meyer before the military court. It is more than 10 years since the fanatical Nazis under Meyer's command killed Canadian prisoners. More than 100 were thus murdered, Colonel MacDonald says, but Meyer was charged with responsibility for the murder of 48 and was found guilty of responsibility for the killing of 18 at his headquarters.  
 Colonel MacDonald cites ghastly examples: 35 Canadian prisoners were resting quietly when the Nazis fired on them; a non-combatant Red Cross man, his badges showing clearly, was shot in cold blood; German officers and NCOs were seen by witnesses looking with pleasure at the execution of prisoners; an officer snatched up a pistol and shot two prisoners whose replies displeased him.

There was a conviction, the death sentence was passed, the firing squad was rehearsed and Meyer said farewell to his family. Then the meticulous Canadian prosecutor wished to make sure every possible authority had examined the sentence, there was delay and commutation of the sentence to life imprisonment. But Colonel MacDonald to this day believes the first sentence of the military court was "logical, judicial, just" and what happened after it was changed was based on expediency not justice.

The defence at the trial set forth that there was doubt and inconsistency in some of the evidence. It was argued that the murderers of prisoners at Meyer's headquarters were not his responsibility. The Canadian area commander, Major General Vokes, who subsequently gave the order for commutation, said later he did not feel that "the degree of responsibility" established at the trial warranted the supreme penalty.

Freedom followed commutation, but Colonel MacDonald accepts that once the sentence had been reduced to imprisonment it was important that Canada should not be out of line with the British and Americans in their treatment of other war criminals. And thus Meyer was freed.  
 It is not the kind of story which leaves any sense of satisfactory conclusion. Political expediency can be an unpleasant god. But there the story is. This at least may be said—we err on the side of compassion rather than vindictiveness. But none will wonder if the compassion seems out of place to the bereaved families of those who died in the war against Nazi Meyer.

**The Age Old Story**

But he, willing to justify himself,  
 Said unto Jesus, And who is my neighbour? And Jesus answering said, A certain man went down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell among thorns.

**ATLANTIC LETTER**

**New Voices In The East**

By Douglas Howe

HALIFAX—One of the encouraging things about the new Atlantic Provinces Economic Council is the thinking behind it. Here is initiative from within to fight from within the things that all the area, and, significantly, not on a provincial but a regional basis. It contrasts, say, with the situation of a generation ago, when with cause and with effect, the area hammered at the theme of Maritime Rights and the duty of the nation, of others, through Ottawa, to rectify the wrongs of Confederation. It's hard to tell how far this area has gone since then in shedding its scepticism of the national structure but one yardstick may lie in the fact that this new movement gives precedence not to responsibility of blame of others but of the area itself in challenging economic handicaps.

The Council of 12 business and professional spokesmen from the four Atlantic provinces held its first meeting recently in Halifax. It was notable that not once there amid the monarchical elegance of Province House's old Red Room did you hear the old aggravated cries of "rights" and "bad deal at Confederation" and "Ottawa's responsibility." Rather you heard voices saying that whatever course the Council shapes must coincide with the good of all Canada.

The Premiers both New Brunswick and Nova Scotia have stated in connection with this body that this region has harked too long on its handicaps and, by implication, too little on its own responsibility to attack them.  
 From the chair Lionel Forsyth of Doeco pushed the suggestion that "our people haven't been aggressive enough," that "one of the disabilities of this area is the lack of interest in the common good." It remained for the combustible Joey Smallwood to talk the old chippy talk; he hadn't brought Newfoundland into Confederation to become

an economic colony of Ontario and Quebec. The Atlantic area should trade more within itself, process more of its own goods, have a little economic federation of its own. His call for more trade within an area that now imports between 70 and 90 per cent of its necessities certainly found support. But Joey's was the one shoulder with anything like a chip on it.

He and the other Premiers came to give the Council their blessings but urged it to move under its own power and not to become a ward of government. The aim is to do that, to attack first what one manufacturer called "our colossal ignorance" of underlying regional economic factors and then to try to cure the ills through knowledge and co-operation.  
 How far the movement goes only time can tell. To a large extent, it will depend on the drive of the man they hire as full-time manager. Inevitably, it's been suggested it might go all the way to Maritime political union but, at best, that's premature.  
 It's 90 years now since the colonial Maritimes did make an abortive and languid stab at Union and succeeded only in providing a cradle for Sir John A. Macdonald to rock the baby Canada in three years later. There was no wide popular support for Union then and there isn't now. Since this new idea does cover not only the economic field but joint government action on tourism, highways and education, it's not inconceivable that political union might eventually stem from it. But there's no conscious movement yet towards that goal.  
 There also is the question of where the movement came from. It came partly from the enhanced regional feeling that came from Newfoundland's entry into Canada. It came partly from the irony that the railways built to unite Canada now are tending, through high freight costs, to cut it up into economic regions. It also came partly

**NOTES BY THE WAY**

In a rapidly developing Canada there is keen competition for new industries. Towns, as cities, are vying with one another for these industries. But some are being very particular just what kind of industries they get. They would rather do without than have certain industries inflicted upon them. —Windsor Daily Star.

Our little national beastie, the beaver, often has been commended for his resourcefulness, and again in line for a few more words of praise. When railway men wrecked a dam near Geraldton the other day, they left lighted lanterns at the scene to discourage reconstruction. Instead of being discouraged, the colony's beavers used them to plug holes in the repaired dam. Placed upright, the lanterns still were burning when the railway men returned to view their handiwork. —Windsor Daily Star.

ly from economic bewilderment and apprehension.

The Maritime Right movement sprang out of the failure of this area to share much in the prosperity of the late 20s. To a good extent undoubtedly the different tenor of this new movement springs from the fact the area has shared in this more recent prosperity and that a quarter-century has brought a lot of changes in distribution of national wealth. But there is irony here too. These provinces have made sturdy advances in this past decade, only to see them dwarfed by brother provinces that stride as giants do. The Council, in this sense, is an alliance of the small confronted with the necessity of keeping somewhere near the big. Then, finally, it's true too, that it has been spurred by fears that the region in some ways may be starting to slip back. If these bad signs keep darkening it would be idle to expect the region to look only to itself. It also could be wrong. The St. Lawrence Seaway, for example, looks to a Maritimer like one more incredible gift by nature and man to an area already incredibly gifted. If it contributes to Maritime economic ills, as many fear, a revival of demands for national redress is not unlikely. Freight costs, too, are striking this area in a way that only national action can cure.

Appeals to Ottawa on either matter would not be unwarranted nor would they lessen the value or significance of this new Council. There's a difference between justified self-interest in seeking national action on such matters and surmounting a state of mind which mutes initiative and adds to regional ills by blaming these ills generally on Confederation. As a challenge to such a state of mind, the Council is a healthy step forward. In the words of the head of the founding fathers of the Maritime Board of Trade, "our idea is to do everything possible for ourselves before asking anything of anybody else."

In reading over a list of rules for pedestrians we came across one which is seldom observed, yet most important. It is "if possible carry a white object when walking at night." Dark clothes at night, even on city streets, are difficult to see. A white object would be of material aid to motorists. —St. Catharines Standard.

About 669,000 people, comprising the entire population of Trinidad and Tobago, are to be vaccinated as a means of protection against yellow fever. This action follows the death of one hunter from that dread disease. The forward march of medical science is thus illustrated once more. Only a few years ago, the occurrence of one case would have led to the death of hundreds if not thousands. —Branford Expositor.

Are American marriages becoming more stable? It may well be that they are. The big news is that the divorce rate is no longer going up. For the last several years divorce have leveled off. They've been holding at a rate of about 2.5 for every 1,000 people in the country. That's a great change in the steady upward trend that has lasted — save for a few depression years — ever since divorce figures first were collected. —Galt Reporter.

**Old Charlottetown**

and P. E. I.

GILLIS POINT

"The census, 1788, mentions Roderick Gillis, from Barra, Scotland, as head of a family in this lot (Lot 13). Gillis on chart, 1850. Spelled Gillies in recent editions and Department of Interior map, 1914. Also known as Low Point. Abraham Gesner, in his report on the geology of the island dated Dec. 31, 1846, says:

"Near the Point is the site of an old French village and a large chapel which was abandoned, when the Acadians were expelled. It is now covered with a thick growth of fir and spruce. At this place also the sea has advanced rapidly upon the shore and has intruded upon the ancient cemetery. . . . I collected all the bones I could find in the highway and by the aid of the Indians, who considered it a very unpleasant task, they were reinterred some distance from the shore. This place has long been a favorite spot for money diggers. If the persons who have dug large pits at Low Point would endeavor to replace the bones of their race in a place of security, their labours would be more praiseworthy than they now are in fruitless searching for the gold of the pirate, Captain Kidd, who probably never visited the Island."  
 —Place-Names of Prince Edward Island, Ottawa, 1925.

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