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For The Blind

The 34th annual report of the Maritime division of the Canadian National Institute for the Blind comes to hand while an appeal is still being made for support for the future.

The work of the Institute has two main facets. The first embraces service to those who are now blind and the second, assistance and guidance for those who still can see in order to preserve or improve their present vision.

In the opening paragraph of the report appreciation is expressed for the interest and work of the late Col. K. S. Rogers who was chairman of the Prince Edward Island Advisory Board at the time of his death.

British Farming

The National Farmers' Union of England and Wales recently called attention to the fact that agriculture is Britain's biggest single industry, currently worth more than £1,200 million per year, or three times the value of all the motor cars, motor-cycles, and commercial vehicles produced in Britain in 1953.

Last year was a good agricultural year in Britain and production of bread grains was up 15.8 per cent; sugar beets, 23.4 per cent; potatoes 5.2 per cent. Increased production was to a considerable extent due to increased yields.

Britain's food bill is a very large one. In 1952, Britain imported 40 per cent of all the world's export trade in food, 70 per cent of the meat exported, 73 per cent of the butter, 42 per cent of the cheese, and 20 per cent of the wheat.

It is reported that British farms produce all the fresh milk needed, practically all the potatoes and oats, more than four-fifths of the shell eggs and vegetables, about two-thirds of the carcass meat and offal, barley and condensed milk, nearly half of the fruit, dried milk, bacon and ham, and nearly a quarter of the sugar and wheat.

A Dream Comes True

Marian Anderson, the distinguished Negro contralto, says that when she was in high school back in the middle thirties her fondest hope was that some day she might sing opera, "at the Metropolitan, if that could be." Well, since then Miss Anderson has come a long way, and today she is recognized as one of the world's outstanding singers.

segregation ruling last Spring had something to do with it, as did an awakening public opinion which at long last is being centered on the fact, which should have been recognized long ago, that racial discrimination helps no one but the Communist propagandists who have been crying out all along, and with some reason, that the United States talks freedom and practices something very akin to slavery.

And so, after many disappointing years, a fond dream has been realized. It is, of course, a triumph for Miss Anderson, although her fame is already so great that one more honour will not enhance it very much.

4-H Club Work

Rupert D. Ramsay, Director of Extension at the University of Saskatchewan, was for many years in charge of 4-H club work in that province. Some time ago he aptly summed up some of the intangible benefits which young people receive from 4-H training when he said:

"Underlying all the training, of course, is a series of basic truths and philosophies regarding life, the soil, and nature. Almost unconsciously, the club member develops a higher regard for the business of farming. He learns how pieces of the jig-saw puzzle fit together, and he takes home to the kitchen table the things he learns at club meetings. The club becomes a family affair, from which every member of the family, perhaps unconsciously, absorbs the homely philosophy of the good life.

"The family then becomes the board of directors of a business, with each member developing a personality that counts for something. Father-son, and mother-daughter relationships are built up that endure the test of time. Over and over again, parents have reported to our office that club work has wrought a change in their family—and always for the better."

EDITORIAL NOTES

The dairy industry should employ some of the latest sales promotion techniques, including vending machines and charge accounts, even if this means violating sacred cows, an economist told Quebec dairymen recently.

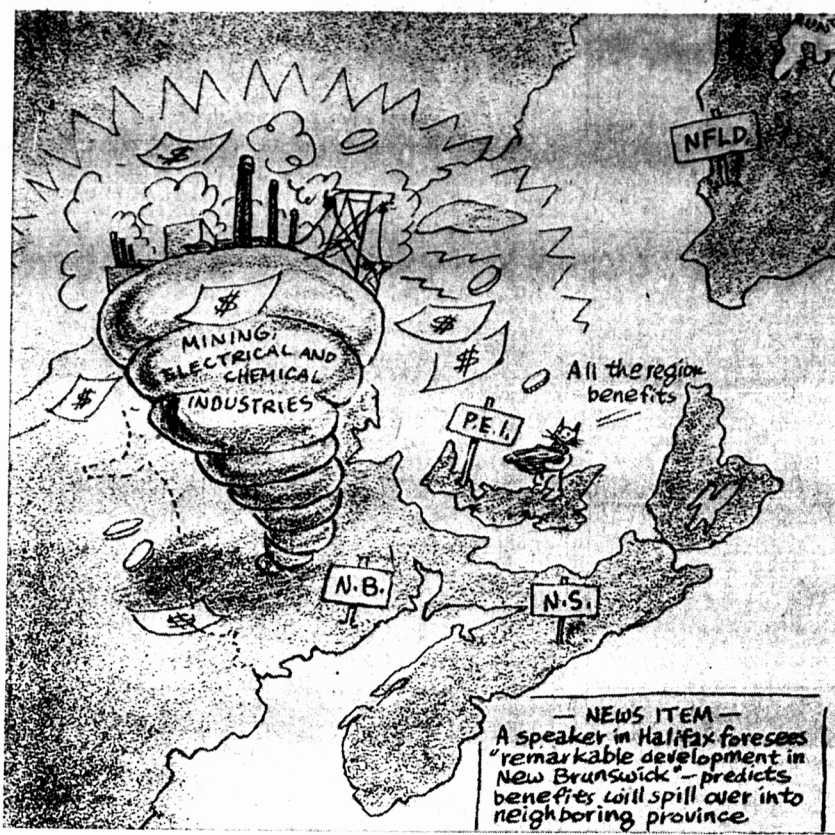
The Queen Mother's visit to the United States and Canada is at the invitation of Columbia University, New York City, which was founded by royal charter in 1754 as King's College. In no small measure the Declaration of Independence was the source of the present Commonwealth as well as of the United States.

A British Labour Party leader, Sam Watson, is baffled by the Soviet idea of a classless society, having observed that Soviet railways have four classes of travel. The fact is, of course, that Soviet government is far more Russian than Communist and is still less than a half-century from the middle ages.

The Maritimes Marshlands Reclamation has been going on for five years out of the proposed ten and has made available about 50,000 acres, more than half the ultimate objective. Relatively little can be done in this Province unless, of course, the building of some of our causeways can be regarded as part of the scheme.

It is not news that much of Eastern Canada and the Maritimes were once covered by water. Salt deposits and a great deal of other evidence indicates that it was so. It is surprising, however, to have two scientists say that the St. Lawrence valley and other parts of Quebec rose from the sea as recently as 2,500 years ago. This is the New World but it will take a good deal of evidence to convince people that it is as new as all that.

The minimum of 20-weeks' benefits under proposed amendments to unemployment insurance legislation will be an advantage to those who have repeated bouts of unemployment without time to build up the benefits to which they are entitled. That and other changes, however, can prove costly and will require stricter administration than when benefits are limited by the length of periods of payment into the fund.



To Fill Up And Run Over

PUBLIC FORUM

This column is open to the discussion by residents of questions of interest. The Guardian does not necessarily endorse the opinion of correspondents.

POTATO MARKETING BOARD'S FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Sir,—Since starting to write this letter I note the annual statements of the Potato Marketing Board the publishing of which has frequently been requested by me, are in the press of the twenty-sixth. Thanks Mr. MacDonald, interested parties can now more easily follow my letter.

In my last letter to the press I wrote to the effect that the comments of the auditor in his report must be read in conjunction with the financial statements of the P. E. I. Potato Marketing Board.

A paragraph in the auditor's report on the Potato Board's financial statement for its year ended May 31, 1953, reads: "There is a change in the status of the Advance from the Potato Promotion Committee of the Department of Agriculture since our last report. The Committee has advanced another \$5,000.00, and the Board may charge against these amounts promotional expenses which the Committee would ordinarily spend itself. The advances are still subject to repayment, however, if conditions warrant."

The advances from the Potato Promotion Board then totalled \$10,000.00. In the last sentence of the above quoted paragraph, the auditor makes it quite clear that the \$10,000.00 is subject to repayment, in other words it is a liability of the Potato Board. He makes it clear it is a liability, notwithstanding the Potato Board shows a debt to the Potato Promotion Committee of only \$4,764.75, the sum of \$5,235.24 short. The words "if conditions warrant" are meaningless since the amount would be repaid to the Board whether or not conditions would warrant repayment. In this sentence, the auditor says in effect that the Potato Board's financial report is incomplete. Its statement of expenditures would likewise be incomplete.

The auditor says, too, in the same paragraph "The Board may charge against these amounts promotional expenses which the Committee would ordinarily spend itself." In essence this statement means that the auditor has satisfied himself from the records of the Potato Board and from correspondence in its files (see "C" in my letter in the press of October 26) that the loaner of the \$10,000.00, the Potato Promotion Committee, authorized the Potato Board to apply against the loan a certain class of expenditures which, according to the financial statement of the Potato Board, it appears to have done to the extent of \$5,235.24. Hence the auditor says in the one and same paragraph that he has satisfied himself that a certain class of expenses of the Potato Board which totalled \$5,235.24 represented a payment on account of the \$10,000.00 loaned the Potato Board, but that, notwithstanding this, the full amount advanced was still subject to repayment. Frankly, I cannot understand it. It may be higher mathematics than covered by my schooling.

The fact remains, however, that the records of the Potato Board and letters in its files, according to the auditor, supplied enough evidence to warrant a statement to the effect that the Board could charge a certain class of expenses against the loan. This implies that the answers given by the Hon. Minister of Agriculture in the Legislature to questions asked by Mr. George Kilton (see "B" in my letter in the press of October 26) were not entirely correct. This matter cannot be passed over lightly and the more so since the auditing firm has been classed as a reputable one.

A paragraph in the auditor's report on the Potato Board's financial statement for its year ended May 31, 1953, reads: "Expenses directly attributable to sales promotion have again been charged against advances received from the Potato Promotion Committee of the Department of Agriculture, and such expenses have now exceeded the total advances by \$58.00 which excess has been included in the regular expenses for

The Poet's Corner

THE LATTER RAIN

The latter rain,—it falls in anxious haste Upon the sun-dried fields and branches bare. Loosening with searching drops the rigid waste As if it would each root's lost strength repair; But not a blade grows green as in the Spring. No swelling twig puts forth its thickening leaves; The robins only mid the harvest sing. Pecking the grain that scatters from the sheaves; The rain falls still,—the fruit all ripened drops. It pierces chestnut-burr and walnut-shell; The furrowed fields disclose the yellow crops; Each bursting pod of talents used can tell; And all that once received the early rain Declare to man it was not sent in vain.

—Jones Very.

the year. The original advance of \$10,000.00 is still subject to repayment, if conditions warrant. The last sentence says to the effect that the \$10,000.00 continues to be a liability of the Potato Board. The financial statement of the Board shows no such liability. In essence the auditor has said that the Board's financial statement was incomplete to the extent of this amount.

The same paragraph says in part, "Expenses directly attributable to sales promotion have again been charged against advances received from the Potato Promotion Committee of the Department of Agriculture." In essence the auditor has said that the \$10,000.00 loaned the Potato Board by the Potato Promotion Committee has been paid in full through contra account but that, notwithstanding this, the full amount is still subject to repayment. Again my mathematics are not such as to enable me to understand it.

A paragraph in the auditor's report on the Potato Board's financial statement for its year ended May 31, 1953, reads: "During the two preceding years, the amount of \$10,000.00 was advanced to the Board by the Potato Promotion Committee of the Department of Agriculture, and during the same period this money was used for promotional expenses which that Committee would ordinarily spend itself. The advance was repaid during the year under review, and charged against the accumulated surplus."

This reflects that the \$10,000.00 borrowed from the Potato Promotion Committee in earlier years had during the year under review been repaid. However, a comment in the auditor's report of one year earlier was to the effect that the amount had been paid through a contra account. The liabilities of the previous year did not include this amount.

Among the sixty-four dollar questions are: 1. Why did the Potato Board not show the \$10,000.00 as a liability in its statement for its year ended May 31, 1953? The payment of the amount later certainly indicates that the amount was owing and the financial statement incomplete. 2. What is the actual wording of the minutes in the meetings of the Potato Board and the actual wording of the correspondence in the files of the Board referred to in the letter dated September 29 to the Potato Board? (see "C" in my letter in the press of October 26). These were the basis for comments in the auditor's report to the effect that the Potato Promotion Committee gave the Potato Board permission to apply against this loan expenses of a stated nature? Should these not be made available, the accuracy of the answers of the Hon. Minister of Agriculture in the Legislature must remain in doubt. In an endeavour to clarify this point, on October 19, 1954, I wrote to the chairman of the Potato Board asking him to give me a letter which would authorize the auditor to review with me his findings in this respect. The receipt of

Old Charlottetown and P. E. I. TELEPHONE POSTS

"Our City Fathers were busy yesterday. They had a grievance in the morning which in the evening proved imaginary. The Railway officials in order to add to their official convenience, are about connecting their private residences and the Railway offices by telephones. A number of citizens objected to having unsightly telephone posts sunk before their doors. They appealed to the Council to restrain their construction and a meeting was convened yesterday morning to discuss the matter. The following motion was passed:

"Resolved: That complaints having been made by citizens of damage to their property by telephone posts, and in order to ascertain by what right telephone posts are now being sunk on the streets of this city, the City Surveyor be instructed to issue a summons against the persons sinking such holes, and so test the legal right; so to do, without the consent of the Council."

"Shortly after this hasty resolution was carried, our Fathers discovered that the parties sinking the holes without assent of the Council have undoubtedly right to do so. Not only can they encroach on public property but on private as well. The genial Surveyor, therefore, will not have to pass through the ordeal of testing the rights of telegraphic or telephone companies to erect poles in the streets of Charlottetown."

—The Examiner, Nov. 18, 1952. this letter has been acknowledged but the requested permission has not been received. I am Sir, etc., AUSTIN A. SCALES, Charlottetown, P. E. I.

MADAME CASGRAIN

Sir,—Many Canadian women who feel that they ought to be taking a more active part in public life should be interested in the remarkable career of Madame Therese Casgrain, who is described, in an article on the Women of Montreal in the current issue of Chatelaine Magazine, as the "most controversial figure in Quebec politics."

"A shy convent-bred girl," daughter of a conservative M. P. Sir Rodolphe Forget, she married a Liberal M. P., Pierre Casgrain. She campaigned for her husband, who became speaker of the House of Commons, and later Supreme Court Justice. For many years she strove unceasingly to obtain votes for the women of Quebec and in 1938 together with Madame Henri Vautelet, she was instrumental in getting the "votes for women" plank included in the Liberal platform.

After her husband's death she ran as Liberal Candidate in his old riding. In 1948 she joined the C.C.F. Party and became National vice-president, a step which cost her a seat in the Senate. As C. P. provincial leader, she is the only woman in Canada to hold such a position and that in Quebec.

Madame Casgrain visited P. E. Island in December 1952. She addressed a women's meeting in Charlottetown, was guest speaker at the C.C.F. provincial convention in Kensington and addressed audiences in Summerside. In Summerside she was the guest of Miss Carrie Holman, C.C.F. provincial vice-president. Miss Holman held a reception in her honor during which Madame Casgrain met a number

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NOTES BY THE WAY

A motorcyclist at Kitchener was fined \$20 for riding through a stop light with his arms folded. Maybe the fine saved funeral expenses by his family. — St. Catharines Standard.

Though males represented slightly more than half of Canada's population in 1953 they accounted for fifty-eight per cent of the deaths—72,417 males compared with 33,954 females. —Saint John Telegraph Journal.

Some people who were scolding because the United States was not prompt to join Canada in the seaway project are now scolding because Canada did not get the same regard. —Fort Arthur News - Chronicle.

Pupils have to learn to meet nudes and surmount them and it is never too early in life to start learning this lesson. Out of 10 ordinary school children, nine will be stimulated by competition, while the tenth might be retarded. Why remove competition and retard all 10? —Camrose Canadian.

A name can be very important. At least, that is what a Japanese member of parliament discovered. In last year's general election, Takeshi Hirayashiki was mistakenly listed as a Communist on the ballot. He was defeated, and demanded a special by-election, and won when he was listed correctly as a left-wing socialist. —Quebec Chronicle Herald.

The Black Ball Line has transferred to Canadian registry the last of its ships sailing under the United States flag. For the last several years, the stories have been of ships hauling down the Canadian flag to take foreign registry. So, this is something different. All our operations are now centred in Canada," says Captain Alex Peabody of Seattle, Black Ball chairman. —Vancouver News-Herald.

The recent unearthing, in Walkerton, of a penny bearing the date 1858, together with a similar discovery in Southampton of a coin minted in 1815, will doubtless be of great interest to students of numismatics. But we know a good many coin-collectors (and we include ourselves among them) who couldn't care less what date their treasure bore, so long as it was really negotiable. —Port Elgin Times.

It may be that the tall fellow who likes to saunter down the street, his hat at a rakish angle, mind in the clouds, is about to get a break in New York City at least. The big city's sidewalk drop awnings have been unkind to nonchalant noggins for some time now. The six-footer who hasn't learned to bob and weave like a boxer soon finds his hat knocked off, and often his head rapped in the bargain. The Fifth Avenue Association has taken a sombre view of the situation and has decided to do something about it. —The Evening Tribune.

In Truro a 19-year-old Montreal youth stole a car and drove it into a ditch because, he confided, he couldn't drive. He pleaded guilty to the theft. Upon conviction the magistrate in compassion for his youth gave him the minimum sentence of one year in the county jail. But the foolish fellow said he would rather have two years please. Fine agreed the magistrate, two years it is—in Dorchester Penitentiary. The news only gave these bare facts, which give the impression that the culprit stole the car in order to be sent to jail. What that fellow needs is not compliance with his notions but the services of a competent doctor to determine what's the matter with him. —Sydney Post Record.

Life always has been dangerous and now is becoming complicated for the creatures of the wild because of man's scientific curiosity. Take what happened to an Ontario moose. To begin at the beginning: A radiosonde—a device suspended in the air by a balloon to gather weather data—caught a moose. A district forester at Geraldton, Ont., reported that the radiosonde recently was lowered gently to earth by an attached parachute when the balloon broke. A moose ambled along, got caught in the parachute lines and was strangled. A bear ate the moose. Isn't there any place a moose can go nowadays without being entangled in man-made confusion? —Sydney Post Record.

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