The Guardian

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PAGE 4 MONDAY, Dec. 30, 1957

Alberta Gas

There is a touch of mystery to the Federal Government's decision not to allow exportation of Alberta natural gas to the United States, pending the report of a Royal Commission inquiring into Canada's domestic needs. According to Mr. Borden, the chairman of the Commission, that report won't be ready for at least two years. It will probably take much longer, for as a rule Royal Commissions work slowly. Moreover, Mr. Borden thinks it would be impraticable for the Commission to make a preliminary report touching on the Alberta gas dispute until the whole field of energy sources has been explored.

This means that it will be two years, perhaps longer, before Alberta's gas interests will know whether or not they will be allowed to export their product. This is a serious handicap to the provincial economy. If it seemed likely that the Commission's report will reveal ample domestic use for the gas, the Albertans would probably be content to wait. But more experts seem to think that it will be many years before Canada will be able to use the available supply. Meanwhile, Albertans fear, the United States' market will be lost.

The dispute raises the question as to whether a Government has the moral right to cancel a commitment entered into by its predecessor, except in cases where it can be plainly shown that the commitment was contrary to the country's economic interests. Would it not be better from an economic standpoint and wiser from the political point of view to allow the transmission of a specified amount of gas to the American company which is ready to receive it on the understanding that the supply would be cut off if and when the Commission brings in an unfavourable report? That would dispel the suspicion held in some quarters that the Federal Government is opposed to the exportation merely because the former Liberal Government favoured it. At the same time it would be less severe on the economy of Alberta, whose Government has been looking forward to this new export business and had made plans for expediting it.

Uprooted People

A recent issue of the St. John's Daily News carries this dispatch from Grand Bank: "A single solitary horse is the sole resident of the Fortune Bay community of Brunette Island today. The last four families vacated the island this week and moved here, completing an exodus which commenced several years ago, and was accelerated in 1946 when twelve families moved and this year when the remaining eighteen households pulled up sticks and crossed to the mainland. In former years over fifty fishermen families inhabited the island nine miles out in the Bay. Brunette always provided a good shore fishery and many of the fishermen went to the banks in bankers and draggers. However, the islanders found they were forced to move when they were deprived of modern living conveniences".

This is in line with the Newfoundland Government's plan to bring about abandonment of hundreds of small isolated communities over a period of years and re-settle the residents in larger and more central localities. It is based on the hope that in places where medical and other facilities are easier to procure, the transplanted settlers will find a more congenial and less hazardous way of life. The intention, of course is good. Whether the theory will work out well in practice for those people who agree to the proposed transfer—there is no compulsion about it—is another question.

For generations—in some cases, as long as three centuries— the residents of places like Brunette have taken the bad with the good, and there was much of each. They had little some years; but their wants were few. When times were good they enjoyed life according to their standards. They were happy and contented with their lot. When the fishery was poor and prices were low, they got along as best they could and hoped that next year would be better, as it frequently was. Now, those who go to the "big places" will expect more and they are going to be disappointed when that more is not forthcoming. The Government, having coaxed them out of their isolated homes on promises of better things, will have to assume more and more responsibility for their welfare when the fishery fails and economic drought lies on the bigger communities—as, indeed, at the present time, according to all reports, it lies on Grand Bank and Fortune.

Uprooting a people is a serious business. It can work in two ways. It can improve their lot, or it can make it worse. And there is a psychological factor which weighs heavily. In places like Brunette, thirty or forty families are usually a closely knit community. They help one another in distress and sing and dance with one another in times of good fortune. That is not the way of larger communities. Will the uprooted people fit in with the new and strange version of corporate life, or will they, from time to time, be filled with nostalgia as they find themselves, like the exile of old, "unable to sing the Lord's song in a strange land"?

Economics are stubborn facts. But so, too, are the affections which people have nourished towards a deeply-rooted way of life, even though at times it be rugged and precarious. It is to be hoped that what has started out as a noble experiment in Newfoundland will not develop into a refugee problem after the European pattern.

EDITORIAL NOTES

From the Soviet reaction to the recent NATO conference one fact is evident. A settlement of the German qustion is essential to progress toward a disarmament agreement.

* * *

"The Duke of Portland has named a new strain of pigs after the Duchess of Devonshire. Her Grace said she felt highly honoured". So runs a report from London. It is to be hoped that the pigs feel the same way about it.

* * *

All Canadians will wish the Prime Minister a pleasant and restful holiday in the Bahamas. Whatever anyone may think of the policies of his government, no one will deny that he has worked strenuously in the few months he has been in office.

* * *

Leaders of the various French political parties are talking about introducing legislation to make certain changes in the Constitution. It is high time. Unless changes are made soon, France is likely to fall apart politically. As things are now, the Government has virtually no powers, and the National Assembly is verging on bedlam.

* * *

The Secretary-General of the United Nations has given timely reminder of the real issue at stake in the challenge of Soviet power. In a speech to the Royal Swedish Academy, he declared that Europe can make up for its loss in prestige only by regaining spiritual leadership. What is true of Europe is true of the entire free world.

* * *

A Scottish educator thinks Canada stands in a position to become leader of the Western nations. Dr. Douglas M. McIntosh, director of education for Fife, says this country's tremendous natural resources place it in the position of being able to command the respect of other nations. That, of course, will depend on how we use our resources.

* * *

In Bruce Hutchison's "Canada, Tomorrow's Giant" a prominent Roman Catholic churchman is quoted as saying that "relations between Quebec and English Canada are incomparably better today than they have ever been". There is not the slightest reason why there should be any conflict at all. Nor would there be if a few demagogic politicians on both sides were to mend their manners.

ANOTHER STRAW

Agricultural Prospects

The Country Guide, Winnipeg

"All the dynamic factors point to a period of growth and development and to shifts in production which will lend greater stability to the industry. While agriculture will have its ups and downs, over the long period the forces are favorable to higher and more stable farm incomes. In this setting, it would appear that the activities of governments in relation to the industry should facilitate rather than direct, remain flexible, to meet short-run difficulties, without introducing permanent rigidities; and display wisdom to avoid doing those things which should not be done, as well as to stand ready to promote the welfare of the large number of Canadians who will remain dependent on agricultural production."

This optimism and advice is quoted from the Gordon Commission report on "Progress and Prospects of Canadian Agriculture," which was released in November. The full report is the work of several agricultural economists, headed by Dr. W. M. Drummond of the Ontario Agricultural College, and Wm. MacKenzie of the University of Alberta. The task of these two men and their colleagues was to attempt to determine and describe the way in which the agricultural industry in Canada will develop during the next 25 years.

The report begin with an analysis of the changes in the output and organization of the agricultural industry over the past 25 years, which was used as a basis for predicting future prospects between 1956 and 1956, and between 1965 and 1980. It is evident from the study of what has taken place since 1941, and particularly since 1946 that farming in Canada has been undergoing important and dynamic changes. Since 1941 the area of farms has increased 25 per cent per acre, and 44 per cent per farm. Between 1946 and 1955 the physical volume of output increased by 20 per cent and output per man-hour by almost 75 per cent. This, of course, was made possible in large measure by the reorganization of farm boundaries resulting in larger and more efficient farms, the much greater use of machines and equipment, the more general application of new techniques and the findings of science, and the carrying of larger numbers of livestock. The report suggests that these changes will continue. This means, of course, that farmers who run their businesses without help of any kind are likely to become more commonplace, and, that agriculture and other industries will become more interdependent.

Turning to the demand for Canadian farm products, the outstanding point brought out is that the market for meat and meat products and for eggs will be strong throughout the next 25-year period, and it will gain strength as the period lengthens. The estimates indicate that by 1965 total domestic consumption of each of red meats, poultry meat and eggs will be up by about 40 per cent, and that by 1980 the consumption of these same products will have doubled. In general, demand for all major farm products will increase with rising population and real incomes. Hence, Canadian farmers, with the exception of what producers will become less concerned with export markets. This report suggests that wheat exports will rise slowly, if at all, but are unlikely to fall.

FARM INCOME

One of the highlights of the report to our mind is the approach taken to farm income. A serious attempt has been made to differentiate between full-scale commercial, small-scale and part-time farms and the income problems of each. The study reveals that full-scale farms (those with gross sales in excess of $1,200), amounting to 62 per cent of the total number of farms in Canada, account for 93 per cent of the total sales of farm products, and that, in contrast, part-time and small-scale farms, nearly 38 per cent of all farms, account for less than 7 per cent of the total sales. As might be expected, average net incomes from agricultural operations on full-scale farms are appreciably higher than the average net incomes for all farms.

For all Canada, full-scale operations returned an annual net farm income of just under $4,200 per farm in the period 1951 to 1955, which was 50 per cent higher than the all-farm average of nearly $2,800. This is not intended to mean that all full-scale farms enjoyed a satisfactory level of income in the period. Nevertheless, the study suggests and we concur, that the income problems of the full-scale, small-scale rate consideration and treatment. In dealing with income problems, which undoubtedly will persist, both farm organizations and governments should not lose sight of this fact.

The final part of the report is devoted to the problems of production and income. No attempt is made to present clear-cut and incontrovertible conclusions regarding appropriate methods of reducing or eliminating the conditions which give rise to the problems, but rather to present some suggestions which, in the opinion of the authors, warrant consideration.

To meet the problems, they support and underline the need for maintenance of a national effort in agricultural research; a wider development of the management approach to problems of the individual farm business; the supplying of information and outlook services to agriculture; the continuation of the rearrangement of land holdings to reduce still further the number of farms, modifications in conditions for securing farm credit; and the continuation of a flexible price support system.

They believe that the family farm is not inconsistent with the efficient use of resources, and that given a reasonable rate of improvement in technology, the avilable resources will permit producers to meet the expanding requirements without undue difficulty. They, therefore, question the need for governments to become involved in the costly extension of agricultural settlement, or to in ductiondunce increased production by large-scale public investment in land improvement. Such programs, they argue, could have the effect of upsetting the balance between production and demand and lead to depressed prices and incomes.

SOME RESERVATIONS

Irrespective of whether we agree in total with the findings, and we have some reservations, this has been a worthwhile undertaking. The study has brought into focus, a comprehensive picture of the agricultural industry, as a whole, which can go a long way toward offsetting a fairly general lack of knowledge and understanding of the industry. Moreover, it has undoubtedly provided some broad conclusions about future prospects which will prove of value in shaping the industry's future. We think the authors have underestimated the rapidity with which the changes in agriculture are taking place, and have given too little attention to the impact on the industry of such factors as contract farming and vertical integration. However, we can hope, along with them, that the forces favorable to higher and more stable farm incomes materialize.

Farmer Co-operation

Ottawa Journal

A Toronto report says the Ontario Government is thinking of withdrawing from the administration of farm marketing legislation, will leave it to the farmers themselves to handle their own affairs.

This, should it happen, might be a retreat from what many looked upon as a dangerous trend — a trend toward government - sponsored dictatorship in the field of farm marketing.

But the question will be asked, and The Journal thinks rightly, whether the retreat goes far enough — whether it wouldn't be a good thing if it went to the point of repealing all or most of those marketing laws and schemes imposed in recent years upon the farming industry?

Co-operative marketing of agricultural products can be good. But it can cease to be good, take on a dangerous aspect, when it develops into legal compulsion, with the government a sort of "Big Brother" to back up the compulsion. That type of thing permitted to grow, could result in an army of petty commissars turning Ontario into a sort of Ukraine.

Strange Cures By Suggestion

By Herman N. Bundesen, M.D.

TOM SAWYER and Huck Finn, you may recall, had quite a discussion about the removal of warts. The controversy centered about the best method of getting rid of them and the following suggestions were made:

Apply "spunk water" to the wart in the middle of the woods at midnight.

Half - cover a bean with wart blood and bury it an a crossroads at midnight in the dark of the moon.

MAGICAL CURES

Folklore is full of "magical cures" for warts. But don't laugh at them too heartily. Along about the end of the 19th century, Dr. J. J. Bonjour developed this method of treating warts:

The patient was told to place his hand on a piece of paper. Then an outline of his hand was drawn and the position of the warts pencilled in.

After being blindfolded, he was told to touch the warts and then told never to touch them again. Finally, he was advised that the warts would disappear in from 10 days to five weeks.

Dr. Bonjour claimed no failures in 30 years. He even began conducting treatments by mail.

ADDED OTHER TECHNIQUE

A similar series of treatments was conducted in 1927 by Dr. Bruno Bloch who added colored dye and a running motor to the technique. Reliable statistics show he had great success in removing warts.

A careful follow - up study at the Zurich Hospital showed the method to be successful in 78.5 per cent of 179 cases. In addition, doctors whose reputations can not be questioned, have employed similar methods involving suggestion with quite successful results.

All of which tends to prove that the power of suggestion often can eliminate warts.

Now is it important to understand that warts are infectious lesions caused by a virus—there is no psychic element involved in their formation.

SEVERAL THEORIES

While we don't know exactly how an infection can be eliminated by suggestion, we do have several theories:

Since emotional factors can bring about changes in the blood vessels, it is thought suggestion might produce a spasm in these vessels, lowering the blood supply to the wart. Or suggestion might have the same effect by lowering the blood pressure.

Neurovascular mechanism changes, such as pallor and blushing, may result in local psychochemical changes which prevent virus activity.

Still another theory is that the changes are caused by release of histamine or acetylcholine under emotional stimulation.

At any rate, suggestion seems to cure many cases of warts.

QUESTION AND ANSWER

A.B.: I have a stomach ulcer that has not been cured with medical care. Do you think I should have surgery?

Answer: Most physicians are of the opinion surgery is definitely indicated in cases of ulcers of the stomach that do not respond to medical treatment.

The Age Old Story

My soul, wait thou only upon God; for my expectation is from Him. He only is my rock and my salvation: he is my defense; I shall not be moved.

The Poet's Corner

POST EARLY FOR SPACE

Once we were wayfarers, then
seafarers, then airfarers;
We shall be spacefarers soon,
Not voyaging from city to city or
from coast, to coast;
But from planet to planet and
from moon to moon.

This is no fanciful flight of imagination,
No strange, incredible, utterly
different fantasy.
It will come by obstinate thought
and calculation
And the old resolve to spread an
expanding wing.

We shall see homes established
on distant planets,
Friends departing to take up a
post on Mars;
They will have perils to meet, but
they will meet them,
As the early settlers did on American shores.

We shall buy tickets later, as now we buy them
For a foreign vacation, reserve our seat or berth,
Then spending a holiday month on a moon of Saturn,
Look tenderly back to our little shining Earth.

And those who decide they will not make the journey
Will remember a son up there or a favorite cousin,
Eagerly awaiting news from the old home-planet,
And will scribble a line to catch the post for space.

—Peter J. Henniker-Heaton

PUBLIC FORUM

This column is open to the discussion by correspondents of question of interest. The Guardian does not necessarily endorses the opinion of correspondents

THOUGHTS OF A NEW YEAR

Sir,—In a few more days the present year will reach the sunset of its life and with its passing go our thoughts and deeds of another year. Standing on the gangplank of this departing year we can look down the tide of life and see again the ports of our calls during the year, see our thoughts, our broken vows, our passions and our sins. We can also see another new year coming over the eastern horizon like a golden sunrise and our thoughts and plans for the wonders we will do. From here we can see the past and the many things we neglected to do. We can see again the harm we did to others, the lies we told and the time wasted at work. The times we neglected our church duties, the shame and misery we brought to our homes and the homes of others by our actions and sins. We may see ourselves in drunkeness and fits of passion, in sickness and impurity, and again we may see our dearest friend that was called in death.

From this review of a fading year at the door of eternity we can still turn to another new year glowing in the east like a golden sunrise. What will we do in this new year; how many of us will be called in death; how many of us will see loved ones depart? Will we be honest and fair at our work and in leisure hours or will we spend a lot of our time in fits of passion, bringing misery and shame again to our homes and the homes of others, or will we look out into the world from the steps of our homes or will it be from barred prison windows before this new year ends? Many of us will be called to the final bar of reckoning; it will be too late then to make our plans for a new year. Now is the time, now is the hour to change our thoughts and our ways and from those thoughts let us plan to work hard, play fair and live clean. Then the sunset of the year and the sunset of our life will be pleasant for us when it comes along.

I am, Sir, etc.,
WALTER A. O'BRIEN
Charlottetown

OUR YESTERDAYS

(From The Guardian Files)

From The Guardian Files.
TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO
(Dec. 30, 1932)

A telegram has been received by Lt.-Col. P. W. MacNevin from Headquarters Military District No. 6 at Halifax stating that No. 2 Battery, 1st P.E.I. Medium Brigade, Canadian Artillery has won second place in 1932 C.A.A. competitions for all Canada, Captain George W. Craig was in command of the No. 2 Battery.

James MacNeill of Borden, a student at the Summerside High School, risked his life yesterday afternoon to rescue little Florence McInnis, aged 11 years, daugnter of Mr. and Mrs. Ambrose McInnis, who broke through the ice on the pond at the electric light station.

TEN YEARS AGO
Dec. 30 1947

At a special meeting of the Summerside Town Council held last evening, a resolution was unanimously passed authorizing the purchase by the Town of the Canadian Legion property on Central Street for the sum of $15,000. Mayor Arnett said he believed the property should be purchased since it was the only piece of large vacant land left in the centre of the Town.

Two United States Air Force planes were grounded at the Summerside Airport last evening. The regular plane from Harmon Field, Nfld., arrived in the morning and was unable to take off later in the day. Later in the day a plane from Goose Bay, Labrador also landed at the field. Both planes will probably leave this morning.

MAXIMS

Democracy is based upon the conviction that there are extraordinary possibilities in ordinary people.

NOTES BY THE WAY

When Paul Martin tells an audience that Prime Minister Diefenbaker is following the path of R. B. Bennett, we recall too that Canada rejected Mackenzie King who ignored unemployment in 1930, and elected Bennett who shaped a policy to meet it.—Ottawa Journal

Do consumers really want the fancy packaging which encloses so much of our foodstuffs? If they do, that may be part of the reason for the high cost of living. Do consumers really want the premiums offered with the sale of breakfast foods, and what not. Again, if they do, that must be part of the high cost of living.—Quebec Chronicle-Telegraph

Sputnik the First or the Second, or any part of either of them could fall on Alaska, or the northern reaches of Canada, and lie there for a hundred years before it could be found. Those and sputniks could fall and be lost even if they were wrapped up in a single bundle. But to the Russians, the Moscow claim is excellent hate fertilizer and nourisher of the idea to go and get it.—Moose Jaw Times - Herald

We are for fluoridation. We do not pretend to know any more than any other voter on this. But when after years of experimentation every public health, medical and dental organization warmly advocates fluoridation we can see much room for argument. We are convinced that for every year that fluoridation is postponed many thousands of children will be deprived of an important protection against tooth decay.—Vancouver Province

Out of the gay, mad 20's grew an adult population that survived the depression in the 30's and girded for war in the 40's. The teenagers today are no worse, and maybe a little better than their counterparts of the past. At least more teenagers today enjoy educational and cultural benefits and they will be the architects of a better world than the one today's adult population knew in its youth.—Sudbury Star

It isn't surprising that Toronto's Public Library is inaugurating a new system of retrieving borrowed books. During the past two years borrowers have failed to return 8,300 books to the library shelves. And no library can afford a loss of $20,000 a year, or whatever the value of the missing volumes. The new system involves a collection agency that will check up on delinquent borrowers before the books became lost, strayed or stolen.—Port Arthur News-Chronicle

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Borrowing at HFC was nothing new to Dad! He brought his money problems to Household and received prompt attention, courtesy, and fast, one-day service. Today, HFC is Canada's largest consumer finance company . . . backed by 79 years' experience. Two out of three *new* HFC customers are sent by *old* customers. Like Dad, they know they may borrow with confidence from the experienced, specially-trained people at HFC. Need money? Phone or visit Household today.

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SAMPLE PAYMENT TABLE

Cash You Get	12 months	20 months	30 months
$200	$35.71	$18.91	$12.23
300	53.56	28.37	18.35
400	71.17	37.63	24.27
500	88.64	46.73	30.01
600		55.75	35.69 $25.72
750		69.21	44.13 31.65
1000		91.56	58.11 41.45

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HAPPY NEW YEAR

As 1958 prepares to enter the scene, we hope it brings a full share of happiness and success to our many good friends and neighbors.

1958

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