

THE GUARDIAN

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'The Strongest Memory is Weaker Than the Weakest Ink'.

CHARLOTTETOWN, THURSDAY, AUG. 30, 1951

Price Control & Prince Edward Island

Prince Edward Island's prosperity, as everyone well knows, rests primarily upon the existence of a staple market for its agricultural and fishery products. Despite the growth in the canning industry and other business fields engaged in the "processing" of food, "unprocessed" food products such as raw vegetables, fruit, butter, cheese, eggs and to some extent meat, form the bulk of the Island's exports to the mainland and to the United States.

For this reason our people have a special stake in the mounting clamor for price control. Since more than half of the increase in the cost-of-living index reflects a rise in food prices, it is perfectly apparent that the target of price control advocates in Central Canada will be foodstuffs. Price control of "unprocessed" food products would, therefore, have an immediate and unpleasant effect for our Provincial economy.

Honorable members of Parliament who advocate price control, will, therefore, be rendering a distinct disservice to the economy of this and other provinces the prosperity of whose people depends directly upon the ability of the farmer or fisherman to secure a fair price for his products. Price control, in theory, may sound very fine. Price control, considered in relationship to the economy of Prince Edward Island, is fraught with ominous and sinister connotations. For price control, as envisaged by its advocates in Montreal and Toronto, means, in the final analysis, policing the farmer. It remains the duty of our representatives in Parliament to protect the economic interests of Prince Edward Island from a price control system which might well wreck our entire economy.

Closed Meetings

The Winnipeg Free Press notes with some concern the growing tendency among the members of its City Council (aldermen) to hold secret meetings on public business. Such a practise is by no means confined to Winnipeg. It has become all too common among municipal bodies, with the result that the public is deprived of essential information and the whole purpose of open council meetings is stultified.

"Though some of them seem to have forgotten it," says the Free Press, "the aldermen (councillors) are the elected representatives of the citizens. Why they should imagine that they have any right to hide public business from their constituents is hard to understand. It comes down to this. Some aldermen do not want the public, whom they represent, to know the stand they take on certain matters. This is nothing more than a shabby evasion of responsibility, and will be recognized as such."

In parliamentary bodies it is customary to hold caucus meetings, but this is for political reasons and municipal councils are supposed to have no political affiliations. They can, of course, hold committee meetings in private, but when the full council is in session it should never be behind closed doors, unless good and sufficient reason is given for such procedure.

A Sound Precaution

No restrictive legislation on the statute books will meet with more general approval than the limit placed on cutting of forest land in the Province, which will go into effect on Sept. 10. As reported in Tuesday's Guardian, farmers may cut up to two acres, or twenty cords of pulpwood or pit props, in any calendar year but if they wish to cut more than this they must have a permit from the Minister of Industry and Natural Resources. Such permits will make provision for insuring the continuation of forest areas as a provincial asset. This is in accord with legislation passed at the last session of the House, and with recommendations of numerous organizations in recent years.

In 1948, for example, a Soils and Crops Committee appointed at joint meetings of Dominion and Provincial agricultural officials strongly recommended that legislation be enacted regulating the cutting and sale of immature types of trees from our limited forest resources. They recommended

ed also the establishment of managed woodlots demonstrating selection cutting and methods whereby forest lands may be satisfactorily managed to produce more wood and lumber of better quality continuously, as well as the initiation of area forest projects on abandoned farms or otherwise at several points throughout the Province for demonstration purposes, the development of forestry maintenance projects on individual farms, and the encouragement of school children and Boy Scouts in the serviceable chore of planting trees.

There is no reason why the selective cutting of wood for pulp and pit props can not be continued on a profitable basis in the Province, but like every other natural resource it must be safeguarded from exploitation. The overall interests of agriculture come first, and our farmers themselves, through their Federation, have on several occasions sounded a note of warning with regard to forest depletion.

EDITORIAL NOTES

A Transport Controller for grain, iron and coal is one step nearer conditions as they prevailed in 1940-45.

The battle of Plevna was fought this date 1877 between the Turks and Russians. It was then besieged until December when Osman Pasha, after a heroic defence, surrendered with 40,000 men.

During the first six months of this year Canadian visitors to Britain have bought goods to the value of approximately \$4 1/2 million under the personal export scheme. This compares with \$3 million in the first half of 1950.

Truro was full of farmers and miners this week, the former registering agricultural improvements developed in the past year, and the latter holding a convention with a view to bettering their positions physically and materially.

Potato growers are wise in heeding the advice being given them by laboratory experts to make thorough and frequent application of fungicides to stave off late blight. The prospects are good so far, but constant vigilance on the part of the farmer is the price of safety.

A dairy shorthorn calf born as a result of artificial insemination at Ballaquinea, Marown, Isle of Man, is said to be the first fourth generation artificially inseminated calf ever born in Britain. The first calf in each of the four generations has been a female.

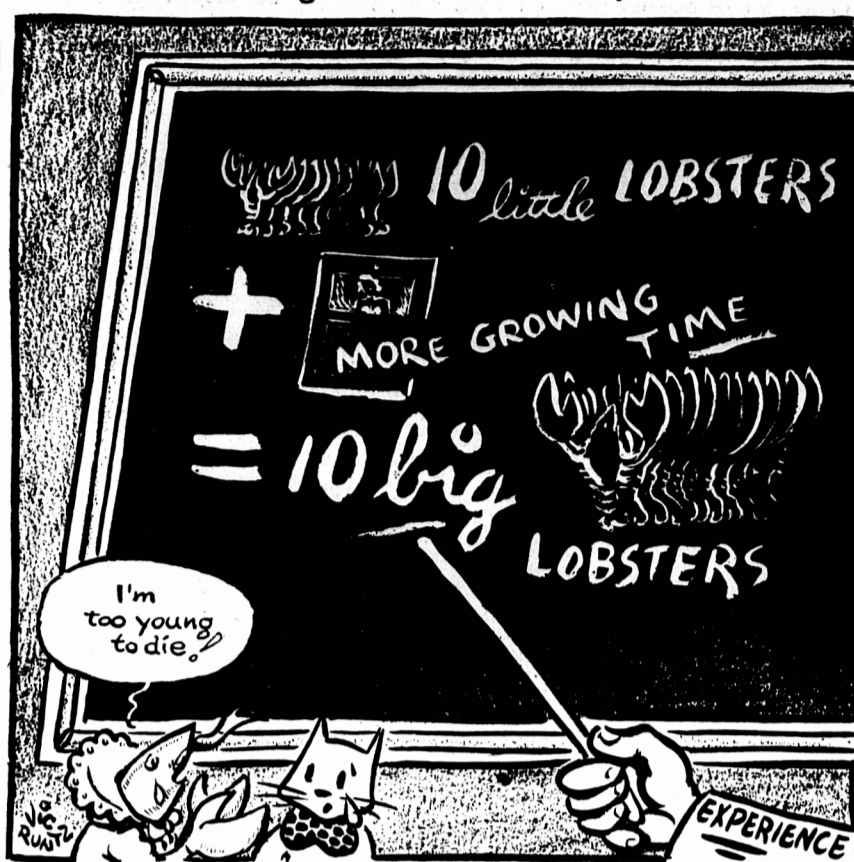
It must be more or less pleasant for an Islander absent some 40 or 50 years to return and find the progress that has taken place in the interval. Not only in the city, but all over the Island, there have been marvelous improvements, and the end is not by any means yet. We are getting better and better every day in every way.

Jimmy Coulter, 11, entered a Highland dancing competition at Bexhill, England, "just for the fun of it." He won the gold medal, first time in 135 years that it has been awarded a boy, something our Highland dancing teachers might well bear in mind. It is a long time, some twenty odd years, since boy Highland dancers earned distinction here.

Away down in Guatemala the judges from police court to supreme court have gone on strike for increased salaries. Because there are no courts sitting, there has arisen doubt as to whether the police can arrest anyone. Presumably the one arrested could demand an immediate hearing, which would be impossible, since there would be no judge to hold the hearing. That circumstance is in itself interesting enough, says the Wall St. Journal, but more interesting still would be the situation if someone should raise the question as to whether it is legal for judges to strike. We begin to appreciate more keenly the position of the Lord High Executioner who was condemned to cut off his own head.

The Federal Supreme Court Act obliges that court to give "advisory opinions" to the Federal government on constitutional problems placed before it. If the same court, after having given expert judicial advice to the Dominion in a specific connection, were called upon to deliver final judgment upon a Federal-Provincial dispute in the same connection, how could it do otherwise than to judge its own advice as final? asks the Telegraph-Journal. Clearly there is going to be a need for a Dominion Court of Appeal. The provinces, as the founders of Confederation and equal partners in it, should have the right to share in the responsibility for appointing the members of any such court. Without an Appeal Court, the provinces will be entirely in the hands of the Dominion—and the federative character of this country will have been destroyed.

Maximum Long Term Yield -- A Simple Lesson



PUBLIC FORUM

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

EARLY STANHOPE HISTORY

Sir,—I have been writing you some of the early history of Stanhope, P. E. Island. I had read your report of the earliest graveyard being at Stanhope, near the Gulf of St. Lawrence and within the continental sound of the sea.

The census ordered by Governor Fanning in April, 1798, listed the following citizens of Lot 3: Rev. Theo. Desbrisay (Anglican); Duncan Shaw, Malcolm Shaw, Neil Shaw, (three brothers, emigrants from Argyllshire, Scotland); John Auld, Robert Auld, Ian Brown, John Brown, Alex. Marshall, Robert McDonald, Rod Steel, George Wickerson, Cable Shenter, Peter Matfox, Dan Roper, John Miller, William Lawson, James Curtis, John McGregor, Stephen Boyver, Cornelius Higgins, Peter Leitch, Col. J. Robinson, Archibald McDonald, John McDonald, John McCormack, O. McCormack, a Mr. McCauslin. The population of the Island at that time was 4,372.

The emigrants who came over from Argyllshire, Scotland, left behind the Duke of Argyll had raised the rents of the tenants. They had chosen members of all trades to join them, carpenters, blacksmiths, tailors, weavers, tinsmiths, bookbinders—perhaps not plumbers then. One weaver was named "Shuttle" Lawson. Another Lawson was named "Teapot" Lawson, he was fond of tea at all times, both day and night, also a good tobacco smoker, like Sir Walter Raleigh.

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W. N. SHAW Vancouver, B. C.

THE TEACHER PROBLEM

Sir,—The current shortage of qualified teachers should be a matter of grave concern to every citizen of this Province. It may not be inappropriate at this time to examine briefly the causes of their numerical decline in order better to effect a remedy. In the last report of the Chief Supervisor of Schools, we note that "One hundred and sixteen licensed teachers who were at work in our schools in June, 1950, did not resume teaching when the schools reopened for the ensuing year. For 1949 the number was one hundred and fifty-two, and for 1948 one hundred and thirty-six."

There are alarming figures and proportionate causes other than the ordinary ones, of old age, marriage, re-entrance to colleges, etc., must be present. The present decline in the number and status of those engaged in teaching can be attributed to an admixture of three causes, namely the policies of the Department of Education, the in-

The Poet's Corner

ON MAN I know my soul hath power to know all things, Yet she is blind and ignorant in all. I know I'm one of Nature's little kings, Yet to the most and vilest things I know my life's a pain and but a span; I know my sense is mock'd in everything; And, to conclude; I know myself a Man— Which is a proud and yet a wretched thing.

—Sir John Davies (A.D. 1569).

difference of parents, and to the teachers themselves. The dominant efforts of the Department of Education for more than a decade may be conveniently summed up in these words, "Behold! We continue to make all things new." The constant introduction of new methods, techniques and textbooks is enough to discourage even the elect. Some of those changes may have been necessary and even desirable, but not a few have given the lie to the ancient fallacy that all change brings improvement.

The presumptuous egotism of these reformers would be amusing if their works were not put to such serious use. The fact that 41.3 per cent of those who wrote entrance examinations in 1950 failed may be partly attributed to such novelties. The deluge of remedies and the announcement that more are forthcoming serve only to underscore their failure to achieve the promised results.

Teachers find small comfort in the knowledge that the very desire which gave them birth will shortly toll their doom in order to accommodate the next hatch of abstractions. Can it surprise anyone that the lowering intellectual content of the system attracts to our schools only mediocre and superficial minds and those intent on administrative positions, or that popular occupation of teaching teachers how to teach?

Another distressing factor is the lack of confidence and respect shown the members of the teaching body by the Department itself. This attitude found its most recent expression in the insult offered that body at its spring convention in the form of compulsory attendance checks. The red color of that card may be symbolic of professional martyrdom to departmental materialism. We may not doubt their sincerity, albeit one impatient of counsel, advice, or question, but that they be considered in the alarm with which many view the results "is a consummation devoutly to be wished."

What responsibility must parents bear for this lack of teachers and the associated evil of their frequent movement from one district to another? The gratifying efforts on the part of the public in providing better buildings and working facilities is counteracted in a large measure by the growing indifference to the teacher and his authority. The best interests of a community are not served by the mere fulfillment of its part of a legal contract.

Little can be said for those communities where no effort is made to introduce a teacher into the so-

The Age-Old Story

The fool saith in his heart, There is no God. Corrupt are they, and have done abominable iniquity; there is none that doeth good. Good looked down from heaven upon the children of men, to see if there were any that did understand, that did seek God. Every one of them is gone back; they are altogether become filthy; there is none that doeth good, no, not one. Have the workers of iniquity no knowledge? They eat up my people as they eat bread: they have not called upon God.

cial life of the district, where all transportation must be bought or begged, where frequent criticism is made before children, and where a teacher's suggestions for the betterment of an individual or group go unheeded or are violently opposed. The scarcity of suitable boarding houses has been named by teachers as the main reason of their frequent change of schools. Those who board a teacher should be aware of the social service and sacrifice they render the community which in turn should show some appreciation for this service. A little more charity and respect in communities towards their teachers would do much to alleviate these unhappy conditions.

The long and uncompleted agitation for salary increases, necessary though it be, bids fair to become the exclusive subject of teachers in their individual and collective utterances. This preoccupation with money makes them less vigilant of other educational activities and allows their more important functions to grow dim in the public mind. May there not be a few who would prefer to teach solid matter with dignity at a lower rate than to become highly paid, servile babblers of nonsense?

Another matter, deplored by supervisors and parents alike, is the wide practice of grading students not qualified to grade. This practice opens the door to laxity on the part of teacher and pupils. It lays a needless burden on the successor whose attempts to rectify it are time consuming and, moreover, it provides a rock of contention with the parents of the pupils involved. A particular student's failure to grade in no way reflects on the ability of his or her teacher. Teachers should be the first to set examples of professional integrity and co-operation with parents and with one another.

These, then, are what I consider to be the main causes of today's blight on the teaching profession in this Province. It is not an attractive picture which I have painted yet one that is far from hopeless. Although I have distinguished the reasons, one readily perceives that they are interlinked and mutually dependent.

What of remedies? The immediate appointment of a competent and courageous Minister of Education. This appointment should be made in the best interests of education and not of mere political expediency. A wider representation of mature minds in any future decisions governing reforms in methods and curriculum in order to prevent our system from becoming "a drill-ground of empiricism and a hunting-ground of quackery." The complete repudiation of the attitude which regards a teacher as something to be coddled into malleable docility. A whole-hearted effort by communities to dispel the monetary fog, which chills the human relations with honest, thoughtful co-operation with those who aid in the task of educating their offspring. Finally, teachers must have a keener realization that the dignity and worth of their profession does not arise solely from the amount of money received but much more from the inestimable value of the child and the daily necessity of the facts and skills imparted.

I have written this in the hope that it may benefit those who bear the brunt of this crisis—the children of Prince Edward Island. I am, Sir, etc., AN EX-TEACHER. St. Peter's Bay

Notes By The Way The notorious Naga head hunters, who pursue their grisly customs in the wild frontier country between India and Burma, raided a farming village in the area the other day and escaped with 90 heads. This brings to approximately 700 the number of persons they have killed during the past year. Refusing to admit that civilization is closing in around them, these savages still adhere to primitive habits. They have, apparently no personal axe to grind with their victims. They merely want to amass a great number of heads—symbols of personal power, wealth and social distinction in their society.—Brantford Expositor

Old Charlottetown (And P. E. I.) LAND SALE AT SOURIS WEST "Yesterday, as advertised, a special train from Charlottetown arrived at Souris at 11 o'clock. Among the passengers were Judge Hensley, Hon. W. W. Lord, Richard A. Heartz, F. W. Myndman, John Stumblers, B. Warburton, Esquires, and several others. After packing of a substantial meal at the Bay Vue and other hotels, the party proceeded to Souris West, where the auctioneer, A. MacNeill, Esq., went to work in good earnest and sold a number of building lots at from \$35 to \$100 each, realising in all over \$1,000. The land thus sold in building lots averaged over \$200 per acre. The farm—the front of which was thus sold in building lots—contains seventy acres of excellent land. It too was offered, but was reserved at \$20 an acre. This farm is valued by competent judges at \$300 per acre. At Souris East Hon. W. W. Lord purchased a very fine property at \$1,761. "The sale being over at 4 o'clock, the special train left Souris at 4:30, arriving at Charlottetown at 8 o'clock. Thus special trains leave for Alberton, Souris and other distant parts of the country in the morning, returning the same evening, after giving passengers from four to five hours to transact business."—The Examiner, Oct. 19, 1874.

According to the Canadian Federation of Agriculture, the service charged with the choice of immigrants for farm labor leaves something to be desired. At the recent meeting of this organization at Macdonald College complaints came from all the Canadian provinces, notably from the east. There is objection to the choice of immigrants brought to the country this year. What are they blamed for?

PROFESSIONAL CARDS

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