

THE GUARDIAN

Authorized as Second Class Mail Post Office Department, Ottawa. The Island Guardian Publishing Co. President and Associate Editor, Ian A. Burnett, Associate Editor, Frank Walker. CIRCULATION "Covers Prince Edward Island like the dew" "The Strongest Memory is Weaker Than the Weakest Ink". CHARLOTTETOWN, WEDNESDAY, AUG. 13, 1952

From Small Beginnings

It has been said that generations have gone into the making of the laws of England; and the same can be said for our Provincial Exhibition and Old Home Week, now enjoying the most successful year of its history. On its present site the Exhibition is sixty-two years old, but as far back as 1823 livestock fairs were being held on the Market Square in Charlottetown, and in that year the Government of the Island stepped into the picture. It offered two pounds for the best carcass of ox meat shown, and one pound for the best beef carcass. The prize-winners tipped the scales at 658 lbs. and 394 lbs. respectively. A few years earlier, in 1820, what is believed to be the first exhibition of Island products was held at Crapaud. The advertisement referring to this venture announced that "the inhabitants of Crapaud and surrounding country are anxious to open a market with Ramshag (now Wallace, N.S.) to exchange sheep for spinning wheels and chairs." Exhibitors from Cumberland, N. S., were assured that their "young cattle would meet with purchasers for cash or barter."

The exhibitions in Charlottetown were open to competition from all parts of the Province and until 1863 were held under the auspices of the Royal Agricultural Society; after that they were continued under a Board of Commissioners appointed by the Government. The cattle show was held for some years at Holland Grove (the block bounded by Prince, Fitzroy, Euston and Great George Streets), afterwards in the vicinity of Government House grounds and later in a field owned by the Hon. John Longworth at the Charlottetown end of St. Peter's Road, where annual shows were held up to the year 1881. After the erection of the Drill Shed (Armouries), from 1867 to 1888, the exhibits of grain, vegetables and other farm and industrial products were shown in that building. At the opening ceremony in 1888, Judge Hensley, chairman of the Board of Commissioners, announced that a group of citizens had been incorporated under the name of the Charlottetown Driving Park and Provincial Exhibition Association, and that they had purchased the property known as the Kensington grounds "upon which it is contemplated to erect large exhibition buildings in the near future, with a view to making ample provision for the growing requirements of the Province." The Legislature in the same year voted an annual subsidy of \$2,000. The driving park was made ready for races in the autumn of 1889, and the Exhibition buildings were ready for the show in 1890.

Since that time a great many improvements have been made, and the Exhibition now ranks second to none in Canada, combining as it does a variety of entertainment and educational features which this year is drawing unprecedented crowds from far and near. Much of the success achieved has been due to the close co-operation between the management and the Provincial and Federal Departments of Agriculture. In recent years the Old Home Week feature of the Fair has proved a big added attraction to summer visitors. Nowhere in Canada is one more likely to meet old friends, or make new ones, than at the racetrack or midway in Charlottetown; and from the human interest angle this is the most important story of all. But it cannot be told here. It is a story that is being related piecemeal at this season, in thousands of letters, postcards and telephone calls to friends and relatives everywhere,—refreshing the hearts of other Islanders abroad with the latest news and gossip, and spreading the name and fame of our fair Province to the four quarters of the globe.

Beginners in B. C.

The new Social Credit Government of British Columbia, notes the Winnipeg Free Press, is new in every respect. Not a single member of it has ever held cabinet office before. Premier W. A. C. Bennett has long been a member of the Legislature but never achieved office in the former coalition Government, which is one of the reasons for his revolt against the Conservative Party. The Hon. Tilly Rolston, the new Minister of Education, also was a Conservative member of the last Legislature and a disappointed aspirant for cabinet rank. Apart from these two, all the new members of

the new Government of eleven persons are strangers to elected office. Two of them, Attorney-General Robert W. Bonner and the Hon. Einar Maynard Gunderson, Minister of Finance, are not members of the new Legislature and will have to find seats for themselves in the near future, presumably with the resignation of two newly-elected Social Creditors.

The elevation of a Government without any governmental experience in the Legislature sets a new precedent in British Columbia, paralleling in this respect the advent of the late William Aberhart's Social Credit Government in Alberta. The policies and fortunes of such an untried administration are quite incalculable. It can be said with assurance only that Social Credit does not figure in the Government's policy but only in its label.

As indicated by the presence of Premier Bennett, Mrs. Rolston and Mr. Bonner, the new Cabinet represents for the most part a successful revolt within the Conservative Party which the label of Social Credit has largely taken over in British Columbia. Mr. Bennett has become Premier of the third largest province by a political accident without precedent in Canada, with only about a quarter of the first-choice ballots of the June election and with only 18 or 19 seats (one seat being still doubtful) in a Legislature of 48. Most of his Ministers did not know one another until they were summoned to Government House to take office. No clear line of policy has been indicated.

"To shake down such a diverse and inexperienced group into a cohesive team and to survive in the Legislature," comments the Free Press, "will require all Mr. Bennett's evident political skill. Probably it will be put to the final test of another election during the next year or so. Mr. Bennett may well court an early election, confident that it will give him a majority but the other Parties, fearing that result, probably will not desire a poll until they can reorganize their affairs after the defeat of last June."

EDITORIAL NOTES

A marked improvement in quality in the Women's Institute handicraft exhibition was noted this year by the judges. This would seem to reflect the gain in skill of last year's exhibitors but at the same time opens up the possibility of interesting further groups of beginners.

A good beginning for the lobster season on the western shore is reported. The supply is certainly the major factor between now and Oct. 5. Gear wrecking storms such as spoiled the season on the north shore are decidedly unlikely.

Good vision does not mean being able to see. A man lay injured on a Hamilton street, disregarded by passers-by until a blind woman "saw" him with her cane. She quickly called help and the man was taken to hospital.

A truly delightful picture is called up by the report of a hunger strike in an Indian jail in protest against forcible shaving of the prisoners' moustaches. The reason given for shaving was that it would stop the prisoners "arrogantly twisting their moustaches while abusing the jail authorities."

The best that Islanders can do for their visitors pales in comparison with Danish hospitality. When an American tourist ordered chicken with garlic at a restaurant there happened to be no garlic. A Dane, dining at the next table, is reported to have hopped in his car, driven 10 miles home, dug some garlic, driven back and presented the condiment to the chef.

To arrange facilities for overseas pressmen and co-ordinate arrangements for reporting and photographing the Coronation of H. M. Queen Elizabeth II, a special committee has been set up. Specially representing Commonwealth newsmen are Sir Henry Turner, general secretary of the Commonwealth Press Union and Mr. Trevor Smith, of the Melbourne Herald cable service. Sir Henry was secretary of the Commonwealth Press Conference when it was held in Ottawa in 1950 and has many contacts with the Canadian newspaper world.

Herbert George Wells, English writer, died this date 1946. He began writing at an early age and after a few years contributed regularly to magazines. He won recognition with "The War of the Worlds", a serial. He evolved a type of novel based on scientific facts and vivid imagination, usually set in the future. His social-science novels are about middle-class marriage problems but he was also a prophet of world organization in such works as "Mr. Britling Sees It Through". His ruling theme in these and in his popular histories was the need for man to impose his mastery on his own creations.

A Cooling Recollection



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.

THE GAELIC MOD

Sir.—The Gaelic Mod held at St. Ann's, Cape Breton, on August 7, 8, and 9 is over. In Cape Breton it will long be remembered due to the fact that it was boycotted by almost 90% of the MacNeils of Victoria and Cape Breton counties.

In its issue of Aug. 9 a Sydney, N.S., journal stated: "Rain on Thursday and washed out the Clan MacNeil day but the program was interwoven in today's celebration." Clan MacNeil day was a "washout" in more ways than one. The members of the MacNeil clan were conspicuous, — not by their attendance, but by their absence. Indeed it may be said that all the MacNeils present could be counted on the fingers.

Robert Lister MacNeil, the reputed 45th Chief of Clan MacNeil of Barra came from New York accompanied by Mr. and Mrs. Neil F. MacNeil. Neil F. MacNeil was formerly connected with the New York Times. His forebears were all natives of Cape Breton, but he was born in the U.S.A.

A few days before the Mod opened, the director — who is also the president, director or executive of the "Gaelic College" — he has only a smattering of Gaelic — awoke to the realization that if the MacNeils could shoulder the Mod, the U.S.A.-born MacNeil chief would not receive a traditional welcome, — no swarming or milling throngs of clansmen to greet him.

He accordingly wired Mr. John M. MacNeil of Iona — acting warden of the Municipality of Victoria county, inviting him to attend the Mod and to extend greetings to Robert Lister MacNeil. The Acting Warden, the councillor for Iona district, who is also a member of the large group supporting the claim of Colin MacNeil of Vernon River, P.E.I., wired a refusal.

Normally it would be expected that a MacNeil chieftain visiting Cape Breton Island would call on his clansmen at Iona and Grand Narrows, — here the population is almost 100% MacNeil.

Robert Lister and his party instead were taken directly from Port Hawkesbury to Baddeck, the shiretown of Victoria County.

On arrival at Baddeck they were greeted by a group of distinguished "Clansmen": who strange to relate, bore the names of McCurdy, MacMillan and Carroll. The latter gentleman we suspect to be of Hibernian descent.

On the opening day of the Mod, "Clan MacNeil Day" call on his clansmen at Iona and Grand Narrows, — here the population is almost 100% MacNeil.

Florida and exaggerated reports in the press the following days stated that "MacNeils were present from all over the land," which was true in a literal sense, — but did not connote a large attendance.

The Age-Old Story

O Lord our Lord, how excellent is thy name in all the earth! who hast set thy glory above the heavens. . . . When I consider thy heavens, the work of thy fingers, the moon and the stars, which thou hast ordained; what is man, that thou art mindful of him? and the son of man, that thou visitest him? These modest him to have dominion over the work of thy hands; thou hast put all things under his feet. . . . O Lord our Lord, how excellent is thy name in all the earth!

Old Charlottetown

THE HEATHER BELLE

"The new steamer 'Heather Belle', built for the Island Steam Navigation Company by Mr. James White, Mount Stewart, under the inspection of Richard Sloggett, Esq., Lloyd's surveyor, arrived in the city this morning. She is moored at the Steam Navigation Company's wharf, and is profusely decorated with bunting. She sits buoyantly on the water, and is a genuine attraction for her beauty of model and solidity of construction.

In dimensions, she is 120 feet long, 20 feet beam, and 8 feet in depth of hold. Her width over her guards is 34 feet, and her length on deck, over all, is 124 feet. She is built of the very best material. Her frame is of Juniper, and her planking is hardwood. She has spruce topsides, pitchpine cluys, and her frame is well strengthened by diagonal iron straps and diagonal wood knees. She will be fitted up with one man's cabin, will be supplied with the best accommodation for passengers and will have capacity for carrying five hundred persons.

With new and improved machinery and a 75-horsepower engine, it is calculated the new 'Heather Belle' will attain a speed of thirteen knots. She will be commanded by Capt. Hugh MacLean, of the old 'Heather Belle', with Mr. Taudvin as engineer, and will be managed by Messrs. Hughes Bros. Judging from the beautiful appearance of her hull, the plans of her cabin arrangement, etc., we feel safe in saying the steamer will be the finest of her size ever constructed in the Dominion."

The attendance of a MacNeil from E.C. and another from Manitoba, plus a handful from Sydney, with the United States visitors thrown in for good measure, served to make it literally true that MacNeils were present "from all over the land" — but those who would naturally be expected to be interested, — the MacNeils residing in the area on both sides of the Strait of Barra — remained aloof.

The Mod is over! There was a good attendance of Frasers, Forsythes, MacLeods and MacDonnells, but few, — very few MacNeils; and they did not represent the real MacNeil spirit so strikingly manifest in Cape Breton today.

I am, Sir, etc., ANGUS J. MACNEIL Iona, Victoria Co., N.S., Aug. 11, 1952.

FISHERMEN'S VENTURE

SAINT JOHN, N.B. — (CP) — The Saint John branch of the New Brunswick Fish and Game Protective Association is planning to erect a \$25,000 building at Lily Lake. It will be a combined headquarters and recreational centre.

The Poet's Corner

FROM DAFFODILS

The waves beside them danced, but they Out-did the sparkling waves in glee: A poet could not but be gay, In such a jocund company: I gazed — and gazed — but little thought What wealth the show to me had brought: For oft, when on my couch I lie In vacant or in pensive mood, They flash upon that inward eye Which is the bliss of solitude; And then my heart with pleasure fills, And dances with the daffodils.

—William Wordsworth.

G. B. Shaw Fund

(Ottawa Journal) A well-meaning effort of some admirers of George Bernard Shaw to raise a memorial fund bearing his name has fallen flat on its face in the mud. It is worth considering the probable reasons for this development which some people will think an affront to the great man's name and fame.

The committee had 250,000 pounds as its objective, and that is a lot of money either in sterling or dollars. It was proposed that the fund be used to help maintain as a shrine, Shaw's old home at Ayot St. Lawrence, to present his plays, and to assist young authors and composers. After nine months less than 1,000 pounds had been secured, and the whole scheme may be abandoned. Already, says Lady Astor, an official of the fund, it has been decided to drop the idea of keeping up the Shaw house for the use and edification of the public.

Shaw himself was a wealthy man, but his eccentric will left the bulk of his estate to further a vague and wholly impractical idea of re-designing the English language — an idea that made no progress at all while Shaw was still alive — to back it with all his prestige.

It may well be that the campaign to raise a quarter of a million pounds as a Shaw memorial came up against a strong feeling that Shaw himself might have done something to this end — he could have endowed his place at Ayot St. Lawrence, he could have left his money to aid struggling playwrights or to produce the Shaw plays. And, remembering Shaw's mannerisms and habits, it will not occur to them that modestly was the restraining factor.

It is true, moreover, that almost invariably there is a lapse of interest in a writer upon his death and for a period of years — and sometimes forever. That might be

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Notes By The Way

Among the many valuable books mitted better use — what parking space exists along the curb? The Library of Parliament, Ottawa, is reported to be a large book of bird paintings by Audubon. This would no doubt be a copy of the famous "Elephant Edition," of which only 500 copies are believed to have been printed originally in Scotland. It is now an extremely rare work and has commanded high prices the few times it was offered for sale during the last 40 or 50 years.—Hamilton Spectator

With a cheerful up-boys-and-at-it enthusiasm, the department of agriculture nominates ragweed as the weed of the week. It is, says the circular, disliked by the farmer for its vigorous growth and prolific seed production, and by the city dwellers whose lawns are due to its pollen. July and August is the time of its flowering and seeding, and now is the time to get after it. The malevolent weed seeds so low on the stem that they are often missed by scythe or mower. Fortunately it is an annual, and for 2-4 acid is sprayed in the proportion of twenty-four ounces to 100 gallons of water, the weed is done for. City and rural authorities please take note.—Toronto Telegram

The most serious aspect of the fire is the bald fact that the Library of Parliament is the nearest thing in this country to the great libraries of the world and the only possible nucleus of a National Library. We are like a man with only one eye; he should be careful to take particular care to preserve to what we have. Unfortunately fires are only too common a feature of the Canadian scene. Much of the blame is due to the drying out of the fabric that occurs as a result of heating during our cold winters.—Peterborough Examiner

We must somehow make it safer for the man in the car and the man in the street. We must have safer automobiles; vision should be enlarged, perhaps available speed should be cut. Highways must be made safer. Safety education and driver training must be more effective and widespread. Police enforcement must be strengthened. We simply must have compulsory periodic inspection of cars. As for the driver, the state and the municipality will have to take more strenuous steps to get accident-repeaters off the road, and they seem to thrive well in the hot-house atmosphere, and mature well under the very noses of the birds.—Dauphin Herald

The owner of a small patch of strawberries has solved the problem of bird raids on his berries. It wouldn't be practicable for a large patch, but it works for him. He keeps on hand a number of glass jars such as marmalade and pickle jars come in. When a cluster of berries forms, but is not yet ripe enough to tempt the birds, he slips the jar over the cluster and leaves it lying on its side. One might think that the heat of the sun would scorch the berries, but they seem to thrive well in the hot-house atmosphere, and mature well under the very noses of the birds.—Dauphin Herald

Curb lines in the main downtown area of Winnipeg are now pretty well given over to parking meters. The machines line the main streets and side streets of the business district. The meters seem to have achieved the prime purpose of per-

Only \$1,000 has yet been subscribed in a worldwide campaign to raise \$700,000 to maintain George Bernard Shaw's home as a memorial. One can almost hear that great master of satire chuckle, even at his own expense. It would be very nice to preserve Mr. Shaw's home as a memorial. Future generations, lovers of his works, could visit the environment in which the great playwright worked. Otherwise, the memorial would be useless redundancy. There already exists a great memorial to George Bernard Shaw, one which cannot be destroyed by lightning, bombs or even by time. It exists in his masterpieces of literature. He created his own memorial, while alive, which will last as long as the English language remains.—Windsor Daily Star

especially true of Bernard Shaw, who was so much in the news when alive. The historic valuation of a writer's work does not come speedily, but it comes, and sometimes it consigns him to the abyss of forgotten men. But very often public interest revives, the man and his life and work become news again, and a new crop of critics probe for his literary secrets.

That has happened in endless instances. It may be that a couple of decades hence it will be easier than now to raise a Shaw memorial fund, that presently Ayot St. Lawrence will be another Stratford-on-Avon, but first of all the Shaw legend must be given a chance to settle.

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