

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, TUESDAY, JAN. 27, 1953

Island Opportunities

In his address at the annual meeting of the Summerside Board of Trade last night, Dr. Frank MacKinnon emphasized, as our most serious weakness, the steady and continuous drain of young people to other Provinces. This fact has been noted in numerous briefs and resolutions of our Boards of Trade, Farm Federation, and other bodies, but Dr. MacKinnon has placed the issue in its true perspective. The problem goes to the root of all our economic difficulties, and on its solution will depend, in large measure, our prospects of future progress and development.

Without minimizing the initiative and achievement of our people in other directions, it is a fact that in the field of research and planning for population increase we have fallen behind. This is not a government responsibility only, but one of very general concern. As Dr. MacKinnon says, to appeal for more subsidies and grants, special freight rates, cabinet representation, public buildings, and other rights and privileges is vitally important, but it will be neither sufficient nor successful unless the Island's voice and influence is brought to bear in the national field on major issues. Recent developments in Nova Scotia and Newfoundland are cited as clear indications of the wisdom of such a policy. An example nearer home is our own achievement in industry, population, and political influence in the last century, which coincided with a period of intense interest in national affairs and constant economical and cultural association with Great Britain and the New England States. Physically we are less isolated today than at any time in our history, but it is also true that we are more dependent on Dominion-Provincial relations and we must be prepared to contribute to national affairs to the fullest extent if we are to receive recognition and co-operation elsewhere. This brings us back to the population problem and to the need of a constructive policy in this connection. Dr. MacKinnon's address appears in full in today's issue, and we commend it to the serious attention of all concerned in the Island's welfare.

Burns' Concert

The characteristic of Robbie Burns which has endeared him to Scots and others throughout the years is that of heart. In a censorious age he wrote such things as:

If ye hae made a step aside— Some hap mistak' o'er'taen ye, Yet still keep up a decent pride And ne'er owre far demean ye; Time comes wi' kind oblivious shade And daily darker sets it, And if nae fair mistakes are made The world soon forgets it.

A great deal of water has flowed under the "Auld Brig" and a new one across Bonnie Doon since Robbie's birth 194 years ago at nearby Alloway. Scots everywhere, however, have kept his memory fresh and in Charlottetown, no less than in his native Ayr, Burns' anniversary continues to be celebrated.

The annual concert sponsored by the Men's Brotherhood of Zion Church is once more under the able direction of Mrs. Barbara Roper and the keen interest shown in Scottish tradition, music and dancing in recent times indicates that she will have plenty of talent to draw upon. If past experience is any indication the promoters will have to cope with a greater than capacity audience.

In The Right Direction

The United Kingdom food minister's announcement that about a \$1,000,000 order for bacon will be placed in Canada follows a previously authorized expenditure of \$1,500,000 for cheese. What is hoped, says the Moncton Transcript, is that these purchases will signalize the return to Canadian markets permanently. Of course that will be dependent upon Britain's ability to increase her sales of British-made goods in all world countries. For that is the governing factor in her buying not only in U. S. A. and Canada—the hard currency nations—but in the sterling area as well.

The return of Britain to these two Canadian food markets has stemmed from a temporary arrangement which permitted her of earning more dollars in this country.

But it seems unlikely that the deal in question will last longer than two months from now. Canada, as has been stressed for some time past, will have to encourage more buying in the British market if we are to expect a heavier purchasing of Canadian products by the Old Country.

There is no doubt that provision will have to be made which would permit of the United Kingdom earning more dollars here in order for her to make larger expenditures on Canadian products than has been the case in the past two to three years. If that opportunity be not afforded, our markets there, excepting for grain and flour presently pretty well assured of steady continuity, cannot else but be restricted to present receded levels and, possibly, shrink still further. By such a development Canada's agricultural industry would be given a greater stability than currently prevails.

EDITORIAL NOTES

This year it will be the Queen's Birthday as Canadians celebrate the birthdays of Queen Victoria and Queen Elizabeth II on Monday, May 18.

Frederick Hensler will be tried for stealing an advance copy of the Curry Report. Already, however, he has lost his job and had it brought up by an assistant Crown prosecutor that he "possessed a criminal record."

Miss Lois Marshall is one of Canada's most promising young singers, and it is to be hoped that a large number of our citizens will take the opportunity of hearing her at the Prince of Wales College Hall this evening.

The British Government monopoly as a buyer of grain is ended. Since 1939 the United Kingdom requirements have been filled by bulk purchase, to the disconcertion of selling nations which never knew when their market might be completely lost. Political considerations as well as purely economic ones will probably continue to influence the market but swings should be more predictable and less drastic than where there was a single buyer.

In passing sentence on a youthful offender Mr. Justice George J. Tweedy drew attention to the fact that no organization had offered to help or shown any interest in the youth's earlier difficulty with the law, as a 13-year-old boy. His Lordship's remarks are an indictment against the people of this Province and City who deplore juvenile delinquency but do nothing to help straighten out the youth who is heading for trouble.

Wolfgang Amadeus Chrysostom Mozart, Austrian composer, was born this date 1756. Son of a professional musician, he was a child prodigy, making his debut as violinist and pianist at the age of six. At the same age he transcribed a long composition from memory after hearing it once. He began composing about the same time and before his death in 1891 had produced 626 works. Although recognized and popular as one of the world's greatest composers he had no business head and struggled to the end against poverty and debt.

Rich grazing land in the marsh area of the Shepody River in Albert County, New Brunswick, will be provided under a scheme now being drafted by the Federal Government, involving a million and a half dollar reclamation project. The dykes built by older settlers in this area have largely been washed away, and it is proposed to construct a dam, sluiceway and new retaining walls. Competent engineers surveyed the area some time ago and it is presumed their recommendations will be carried out.

There has been a steady decline over a long term of years in the number of rooms occupied by the average family unit, and it has exceeded the decline in the size of the family. Nearly all the evil effects of this decline, notes the Financial Post, are concentrated upon the lowest economic class of the population. There is little objectionable overcrowding among all those classes of the population who can manage somehow to buy their own home, though some of them are undoubtedly taking in too many roomers in order to finance the transaction. But the real burden of present overcrowding presses almost entirely upon people who cannot possibly buy and must therefore rent. They are protected from excessive rentals by the rent controls, but these have two evil counter-effects: they discourage the erection of new houses for renting, and whenever a house becomes vacant they impel the landlord to insist upon choosing the applicant with the smallest family, thus making it almost impossible for the large family to find any accommodations at all.

Awful Comedown



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.

TRIBUTE TO DR. GORDON

Sir,—It was with feelings of profound sorrow that I heard, a few days ago of the death of Dr. A. H. Gordon of Montreal, a friend I have known for many years. He was born on Prince Edward Island, the son of Rev. J. A. and Mrs. Gordon, and lived here during his young manhood days. He was a great Islander and loved the Island and its people. He was, and he lived the part of, a fine Christian gentleman.

For years he was superintendent of the Sunday School of the First Baptist Church in Montreal. Like the great Olier he was a well read student of the Bible. He began his medical career as a druggist's clerk and rose in his chosen profession to be a professor of medicine at McGill University.

As a student at McGill he won the Holmes Gold Medal, the highest award given by the medical faculty. He achieved success and fame as a great physician by hard work, seven days in the week, many hours of the day and many days well into the night. His was indeed a life of service rendered to his fellowman. In life he won the esteem, the honor and the love of those he met and served. He was loved by the members of his class, his fellow practitioners, his patients and his friends. In death he will be remembered as a good and faithful servant, enter thou in the joy of thy Lord. Of him it could be truly said, "If everyone to whom he did a kindness would place a bud upon his grave, he would sleep tonight beneath a wilderness of flowers." I am, Sir, etc. JOHN F. McNEILL, M.D., C.M. Summerside, P. E. I.

DAIRY AMALGAMATION

Sir,—Yesterday's edition your news release by an authorized spokesman respecting the amalgamation of dairy factories in Prince County gives me, as "Research Director of the Federation of Agriculture" a large amount of credit for the inception of this project.

As I am no longer officially attached to the Federation or to the Department of Agriculture, it is difficult to voice their opinion, and no pronouncement has been made from either of those sources. However, while gratefully acknowledging any credit coming my way for preliminary work, may I point out that I cannot accept any credit or any responsibility for the procedure or the new form of organization which this proposed project is now taking.

The reason for declining identity with the present plans surrounding this move is on account of the many far-reaching implications and uncertain factors involved in the proposed organizational set-up. Recent inquiries indicate that these matters have not been fully clarified or agreed upon by the majority of dairy producers in the area or the Provincial organizations or agricultural officials concerned. The importance of having unity and complete understanding among all parties concerned is essential to the success of any project of this nature. Because of the apparent lack of these qualities, it seems to me that a series of open and detailed discussions respecting all the implications of this very necessary and very worthy proposition should be held among the primary producers, with all parties concerned present to analyze problems and present their viewpoints, before any further action is taken. In this way the interests of producers can be protected, their considered opinions and support can be ascertained and the old rule of "plan-

Notes By The Ways

More and more, parking facilities, or lack of them, are becoming the clue to shopping habits. It isn't a problem that can be disregarded in business districts, else business gradually moves elsewhere. —Windsor Daily Star

Chicago traffic constables are wearing a new type of uniform cap with a luminous band, to make them more easily visible in the darkness to vehicle drivers. It sounds like a sensible idea. The white belt is good, but especially in murky nights it's not enough. —Ottawa Journal.

The tantalizing rhythm peculiar to the celebrated Folies Bergere of Paris was interpreted by Barbara Ann Scott in Hollywood Ice Revue opening at Madison Square Garden. The world's greatest feminine skater, in a brand new role typical of her versatility, skated as a ruffled, gartered and cosseted leading lady of La Vie Parisienne, a piece patterned on the saucy French revue. —New York Journal of Commerce.

How those shivering southerners would revel in our mild climate if they knew about it! Their vague ideas of Canada are undoubtedly similar to those of Kipling's "Our Lady of the Snows" as if they think of us at all it is as a people who rarely remove our

The Poet's Corner

THE MILLIONAIRE

There was a day when Time, the millionaire, Seemed magically unspendable to me. He glittered like a spendthrift at night his stars winked in the money tree. I stretched my arm to catch his swinging hand, I hopped and skipped in rhythm with his stride. He was the cracker-jack who led the band, I was the little brother by his side. He always left me tenderly at night, His morning smile would dance me to my feet. He owned the town and everything in sight, He'd let me search his pockets when we'd meet. I rode the ferris wheel one summer day, And had him hold my candy and balloon. When I got off I found he'd gone away. Then night came on me, very dark and soon. —Joseph Francis Murphy, in "Essence."

ning and knowing before building" can be followed. I am, Sir, etc. LEO P. McISAAC, Charlottetown.

Old Charlottetown (And P. E. I.)

LENNOX ISLAND

House of Assembly, April 12, 1841: Mr. Gorman, from the Committee on the State of the Colony, moved the following resolution, which was agreed to on a vote of 15-5: "Whereas David Stewart, Esq., alleges that one of the chief reasons which moved him to purchase Lennox Island, was to prevent the Indians from being molested thereon by the whites; and as it appears that the Indians had, previous to his purchase, driven off another individual who had purchased from the Montgomeries on the same title as Mr. Stewart has purchased; and as the Indians have resided there since the British came to the Colony, and have thereon their chapel and burial ground, and have no settled occupation of any other part of the territory of this Colony; and as from the great proportion of the soil thereof being unproductive of cultivation, it seems not worth more than \$200 currency, even if free from incumbrance: Resolved, therefore, that it is the opinion of this Committee, that it is inexpedient to appropriate any money for the purchase of said Island on behalf of said Indians."

The Age-Old Story

Whatever the Lord pleased, that did he in heaven, and in earth, in the seas, and all deep places.

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The Passing Scene

By Observer ABOUT PORRIDGE

The other day in the course of a social chat a farmer friend happened to tell me what he customarily eats for breakfast. Not wishing to be considered ill-mannered I hasten to state that I would never think of prying into a man's eating habits but, as frequently happens in social chats, one thing led to another until my friend volunteered the information. His list I must say was impressive. Three or four fried eggs, a good sized slab of ham or bacon (sometimes cured, sometimes not), five or six slices of bread, some home made jam, and a mug of tea with sugar and cream. Since he happens to be of pronounced Scottish descent I realized in a flash, or thought I did, that he had forgotten something, so I thought I would record straight. "And oatmeal porridge, no doubt!" I said.

The man looked at me for a moment with a sort of half-apologetic look in his eye and replied, "No, no porridge!" "Do you mean to tell me," I went on, "that you, a Scotman, have given up porridge?" "Yes," he said, "I guess so. We sometimes have it on Sundays but weeks go by and we don't have it at all."

He then went on to tell me that a lot of his Scotch friends and neighbors have allowed themselves to get into a similar position. Suddenly I remembered a talk I had with an American tourist last summer. The meals served him at the place he was staying were on the whole good. He had hoped, however, that good Scotch porridge might be included in the menu, but for some reason it wasn't. "Why didn't you ask for it?" I wanted to know. "I did," he replied. "And what did they bring you?" "I don't know," he said, "But it wasn't porridge."

I paid no attention to the incident at the time for tourists are sometimes hard to please anyway, but now, in the light of my farmer friend's revelation, it took on new significance. Apparently, the one thing that above all others made the Scottish people strong and sturdy is going the way of Cheddar cheese. It is not, I fear, a happy way. . . .

So far as I know there is not a Scotch corpse anywhere in my blood. I do not say this either to brag or lament for of course I had no say in the matter. I simply state the fact and others may pity me or congratulate me as they see fit. But I know enough about world history to realize something of the contribution to civilization which the Scots have made for more than a thousand years. It doesn't matter what aspect of civilization one cares to think of, —science, literature, education, finance, politics, religion, Scotchmen have been right up front in them all. In fact it is not an exaggeration to suggest that but for the Scots there wouldn't be any civilization worth talking about anywhere in the world. And the secret of their supremacy (no, it isn't too strong a word) in world affairs can be explained in one simple word, PORRIDGE. . . .

When I was a small boy I used to imagine that when "King Bruce of Scotland flung himself down in a lonely mood to think" it was a spider with her persevering ways that took him out of the doldrums and set him on his conquering way retreating, indeed that is what the poem concerning the incident led me to believe.

One thought more, so long as I am on the subject. There was a time not so many years ago when genuine Prince Edward Island oatmeal could be picked up almost anywhere. Last fall I had to search quite a bit before I could find a pound of it. In all seriousness I regard this as a sign of a significant retrogression in our economy. There would seem to be no good reason why we could not only supply our own requirements but have a considerable surplus for export. I am certain there is no finer oatmeal processed anywhere in the world. . . .

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