

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, FRIDAY, NOV. 14, 1952

Smaller Families

It will be no surprise to Canadians that their families are becoming smaller. A Canadian Press story reveals that in nine of the ten Provinces there has been a decline in the average size of families. Newfoundland remains unchanged with the largest average family, comprising 4.4 persons. The figures supplied by the Bureau of Statistics show in the ten years from 1941 to 1950 the average in Quebec declined from 4.5 to 4.2; New Brunswick from 4.5 to 4.1; Prince Edward Island from 4.2 to 4; Nova Scotia from 4 to 3.9; Saskatchewan from 4.1 to 3.7; Alberta from 3.9 to 3.7; Manitoba from 3.8 to 3.6; Ontario from 3.6 to 3.4; and British Columbia from 3.4 to 3.3. The average Canadian family declined from 3.9 to 3.7.

At the same time the number of families in this country increased in the ten years from 2,525,000 to 3,207,000 and in Prince Edward Island the number of families increased from 19,000 to 21,000.

The long term trend is in the direction of smaller families and there can be no doubt but that but for the increase in the immediate post-war years the average decline would have been even more. Part of the cause must be laid to our somewhat artificial standard of living, according to which a small family is regarded as being better off than a larger one. At the same time those who prepare themselves for the professions and those who enter other occupations which offer attractive but deferred rewards are discouraged from early marriage. It would seem that both our standards of values and the social and economic framework must be revised if the trend is to be altered.

No Loyal Opposition

One of the defects of the United States' political system, notes the Ottawa Journal, is that it does not provide for an organized Opposition in Congress.

In Britain or in Canada an Adlai Stevenson, a man of distinguished ability, would be continued as head of his party, would have a seat in Parliament, to become leader of the Loyal Opposition, and thus be given opportunity to go on serving his country.

"Under the U. S. system," says the Journal, "Governor Stevenson, defeated for the presidency, passes out of the picture, is no longer the recognized leader of his party, and will have no seat in any legislative chamber in his country. The U. S. is deprived completely of his services."

"An Opposition, as it exists under the British system, secures continuity, makes for party discipline, provides criticism that is organized and responsible. Under the U. S. system a minority party in Congress is mostly leaderless, lacks cohesion, makes for all sorts of temporary alliances, for the influence of lobbies and log-rolling. That the British system is the better system, there can be no doubt at all."

Combines Report

The latest report by Combines Commissioner T. D. MacDonald to Hon. Stuart Garson, Minister of Justice, charges that an illegal price-fixing combine exists in Canada's fine paper industry. Forty-four companies are involved, of which seven are paper-making mills and 37 are merchant companies. The industry as a whole is valued at \$50 million.

Four years in preparation, the report dates back to investigations begun when Mr. F. A. McGregor still was head of the Combines branch. The inquiries were continued by Mr. MacDonald. They have been conducted by the Combines Commission under the direction of the responsible Minister, Mr. Garson. Combines penalize the public by curbing competition and raising prices for the consumer.

Although these reports are never issued to the public until detailed investigations have been made, and documentary evidence is available, it is emphasized that the mere publication of the report does not in itself provide proof of guilt. The question of guilt is one for the courts to determine. But quite plainly the public interest demands full discussion of the issues raised in the report.

Meanwhile Mr. MacDonald has again advised that one way to fight combines is to reduce tariffs. In the case now under

review he has charged that the level of Canadian prices has not been unrelated to the amount of tariff protection which the fine paper industry receives. In this field the Federal Government need not await court action. It has the remedy at hand. The Tariff Board can pass judgment on whether the protection should be reduced or withdrawn. Mr. MacDonald's recommendation that the Tariff Board should review the protection now granted the industry will doubtless be acted upon without unnecessary delay.

Another Stevenson

The London Free Press recalls that the grandfather of Adlai Stevenson was vice-president of the United States in the nineties. His name incidentally was also Adlai. He was making a whistle stop tour in the Northwest in the campaign in 1892. He found that a great issue in that section was whether the towering mountain in the district should be named Tacoma or Rainier. He could not ignore the controversy and he resorted to strategy in which he was assisted by the engineer of his special train. In town after town, Stevenson lauded the mountain's beauty, and then brought up the name dispute.

"This controversy must be settled and settled right by the government," he would say. "I pledge myself that if elected I will not rest until this glorious peak is properly named. And I agree with those who say there is only one name worthy of consideration, and that . . ."

Here he would pull a cord which the engineer had secretly installed. His voice was instantly drowned by a mighty blast of the locomotive's whistle. Then before there was a chance to say another word, the train would pull out of the station.

Stevenson never completed the sentence. No one ever learned what he thought the mountain should be named.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Birthday of Prince Charles of Edinburgh, 1948.

The question of whether Scottish heather can grow on the Island has been answered in a very decided affirmative. It not only can but has been grown successfully in each of the three counties.

Political interest centres on the Queen's County Conservative nominating convention this evening, when the likelihood is that the sitting members at Ottawa, Messrs. W. Chester S. McLure and J. Angus MacLean, will be renominated.

The "North Novies" chose a distinguished scribe in Dr. Will R. Bird to record the regiment's battle history. It is now ready for publication and will no doubt do justice to the experiences and achievements of that fine body of men.

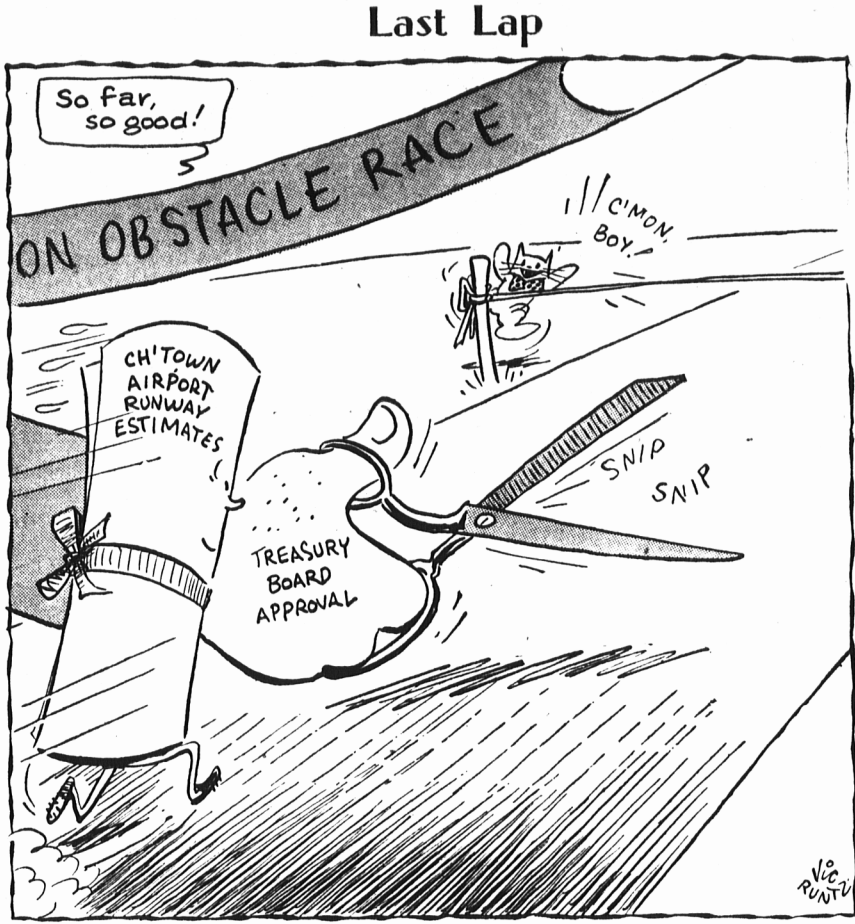
It is gratifying to have had a record number of tourists visit this Province during the past ten months. The steadily growing tourist industry, however, brings with it the responsibility to at least keep pace with transportation, accommodation and other facilities.

The Republic of Korea's denouncement of truce efforts is a reminder that when the long sought truce is achieved it will be only the beginning of peace negotiations. A cease-fire implies that fully effective forces must be maintained in that country until a satisfactory understanding on future relationships has been reached.

The police are frequently up against the problem of the victim who is far more interested in recovering his own property than in seeing justice done. Banks appear to have had that human failing also in the remarkable \$250,000 certified cheques swindle which was not put in the hands of the police.

The Government today does much that was formerly left to private individuals and organizations but there are still wide fields of human need which must be taken care of apart from state support. The varied and humanitarian work carried on by the Catholic Social Welfare Bureau in Charlottetown deserves and requires generous support.

Lord Roberts, Sir Frederick Sleigh Roberts, Earl Roberts of Kandahar, Pretoria and Waterford, British field-marshal, died this date 1914. Born in India, he fought in the mutiny (winning the V.C.), the northwest frontier, Abyssinia, Lushai, Cachar and Afghanistan. After Buller's defeat at Colenso, Roberts was appointed commander-in-chief in South Africa. He defeated the Boers several times and forced Cronje to surrender with 4,000 men at Paardeberg, relieved Kimberly and Mafeking and annexed the two republics.



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.

APPEASEMENT

Sir,—This word has lost its ancient meaning. It used to be quite respectable, to pacify, to propitiate; but it has had so many shocks at Munich, and Yalta and in other places that now it has come to have a sinister meaning, implying a doubtful experiment and giving in for peace sake.

On thinking over this word I find that human life is honeycombed with appeasement. For example, a minister of the gospel avoids preaching hell fire. The people don't like it. It is not a well-managed discourse. Instead, he preaches smooth doctrines of philosophy and history.

He must avoid politics. People don't like to hear the Government criticized from the pulpit. That is taboo. He must be careful not to offend any one. It might affect his salary. He can be so nervous about the doings of government but must not speak right out.

Jesus must have been tempted to appease his hearers. He was strongly advised more than once to soften his remarks. How Jesus cut across the rulers' prejudices about the Sabbath and washings. The cleansing of the temple was an awful thing for him to do. That, more than any other one thing, cost him his life. Did Jesus know what he was doing? He certainly did.

We appease our conscience. How often we recede from something difficult with the excuse that no one will notice if it is not done at all. A junior bank boy in sweeping up at night found on the floor a roll of bills. He took it home and thought over how he could spend it. There was his widowed mother who needed more care than they could afford, but next morning he took the roll back to the manager who asked him: "Why did you bring the money back? If you kept it no one would know." The boy replied: "Well, I would know and I would not like to live with a thief for the rest of my life." How often we appease our conscience and say: "It does not matter, no one will know." Appeasement is a hidden, subtle sin that we must guard against if we are to maintain our integrity and serve our day and generation.

I am, Sir, etc., W. I. GREEN, Stanley Bridge.

Books Received

BASIC RULES OF ORDER by Thomas H. Elliot (Harcourt, Brace, N. Y., in Canada George J. McLeod, Ltd., \$2.75 171 pp.) The author was formerly a Congressman from Massachusetts and has lectured on government at Harvard and M. I. T. In this little book he has succeeded in making remarkably clear the principles which guide the conduct of a public meeting. Anyone may be called upon to take the chair at some time or other and be responsible that a meeting is so ordered that the majority can have their way and yet the minority can be heard in their efforts to change the others' opinions. Traditional parliamentarians may consider that too much simplifying has been done by the author but there is no doubt that its publication will help to improve the effectiveness of public meetings.

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The Age-Old Story

Beautiful for situation, the joy of the whole earth, is Mount Zion, on the sides of the north, the city of the great King.

Lost Kingdom Used Oldest Known ABC's

Man is learning more about his earliest ABC's from the kingdom of Ugarit. Ugarit no longer exists. It vanished about 3,000 years ago. But the ancient city-state on modern Syria's Mediterranean shore still holds secrets of how the alphabet came into being. The National Geographic Society observes.

A French archeological team recently unearthed there the ivory throne of Ugarit's kings. More important were new discoveries by Professor C. F. A. Schaeffer, the expedition's leader, of graven clay tablets of cuneiform script in the Ugarit language, dating from 2,000 B.C.

In 1929, at a place called Ras Shamra, now of Latakia, in Syria, Prof. Schaeffer first discovered evidence of this lost city that stood on the Assyrian mainland opposite the eastern cape of the island of Cyprus.

Its people knew how to write using an alphabet. As the first tablets were dug from a palace library, the news stirred the world of science.

Many scholars had considered the alphabet to be more recent, an accomplishment of the Phoenicians seafaring peoples who roamed the Mediterranean from the great city of Tyre to the Pillars of Hercules, and even beyond into the unknown Atlantic.

Yet here was a totally unknown language of a time centuries earlier. It was used side by side with Egyptian hieroglyphics and Babylonian ideographs. But Ugarit script comprised only 30 different cuneiform signs—a true alphabet.

Translated by experts in ancient languages, the tablets revealed a rich body of poetry and mythology with remarkable similarities to stories of the Old Testament.

The civilization of the ancient Canaanites, the tablets of Ugarit are recasting study of the Bible as well as the sources of Western languages.

Excavation has shown that Ugarit was occupied as early as the fifth millennium B.C. It became a rich and powerful center of commerce between the empires of Mesopotamia and the Mediterranean.

Later it stood as the northern bastion of ancient Egypt's Middle Kingdom. Statues in ivory and gold, altars, idols, vases and hieroglyphic inscriptions show that the Egyptian pharaohs sent many gifts to the king of Ugarit and used the city as a port.

Ugarit finally fell before Hittite invasions that broke ancient Egypt's power in the Near East. The city was wrecked by an earthquake and sacked by conquerors in the middle 1300's B.C. A century and a half later Ugarit ceased to exist, and with it one of man's earliest known alphabets passed into limbo.

The Bear Facts

(Kingston Whig Standard) It's going to be a cold winter—colder than last year. In fact, according to the news from Bear Mountain, in New York State, the coming winter will be more severe than any one of the last four. The woolly bears say so, and the woolly bears have called the shot accurately during each of the last four years. This is the finding of an official survey conducted by naturalists and led by Dr. C. H. Curran, curator of insects and spiders at the American Museum of Natural History.

Dr. Curran, however, remains skeptical about the prophetic powers of these little brown and black caterpillars that are apparently a common sight nowadays in New York State. He admits that they have been right for four winters in a row but he feels that the prediction they now make must be fulfilled before the insects can be accepted as accurate weather prophets.

The old superstition which the doctor and his survey are attempting to check is that if the brown bands on the caterpillars are wide it means a mild winter and if they are narrow it means a harsh, mean winter. Last year the survey showed an average of 5.5 brown bands

The Poet's Corner

HEREDITY I am the family face; Flesh perishes, I live on. Projecting trait and trace Through time to times again. And leaping from place to place Over oblivion.

The years-heired feature that can In curve and voice and eye Despite the human span Of durance—that is I; The eternal thing in man, That needs no call to die.

—Thomas Hardy

Old Charlottetown

(And P. E. I.)

TEMPERANCE TEA PARTY

The Independent Temperance Society had a very large tea party in the new house recently built by Mr. Downs, on Dorchester Street, on Wednesday last. Absence from town unfortunately prevented our attendance, but we are informed that between two and three hundred persons sat down to table, and enjoyed themselves in capital style; the presence of many a bright eye and blooming cheek attesting the favour with which Total Abstinence entertainments are regarded by the better portion of creation.

"The tea-pots having been properly emptied, eloquence began to gush forth, in which the evils of intemperance were depicted—the experiences of debauchees detailed—and the beauties of the Total Abstinence principle painted in the purest (water) colours. Notwithstanding the absurdities that are sometimes committed by gentlemen of rather doubtful ability, who strive to entertain an audience with a wishy-washy discourse on Temperance, still we think the cause is greatly benefited by these friendly and festive meetings, where it is almost impossible for a man to abjure Teetotalism, if its pledge is imposed on him by a pretty pair of pouring lips over a cup of strong B.O.

"By our faith, we think we would be tempted to take a pledge to do any thing, if administered on such an occasion and in such a way! Let the girls have tea-parties once a quarter, or oftener if they like; there is no fear of Bragken's pump running dry; and if their influence does not tend more to reclaim the drunkard than all the crack-brained speeches that could be delivered from this time till next year, we will put our cap over our eyes, and henceforth put no faith in prophecy."

Edward Whelan in The Palladium, Jan. 11, 1845.

ments per woolly bear. This year's survey resulted in a computed average of 4.2 brown segments per caterpillar. If the superabundance holds good, this indicates that the coming winter will be cooler.

Dr. Curran's skepticism is undoubtedly the correct attitude for a scientist to take. He feels, however, that we should inform our readers that the doctor does not intend to stay in New York State to learn how much cooler, if any, this coming winter will be in comparison with those of the last four years. Dr. Curran is going to Florida.

Rheumatic PAIN

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Notes By The Way

The Eskimos of Southern Labrador who have disappeared into the white stock, have bequeathed to their descendants special characteristics both of mind and body, and have produced what some observers regard as a distinctly superior type—an opinion which is bolstered by the scholastic records of native and half-breed children attending school in either Newfoundland or Southern Labrador. The fact is that they usually outdo the best efforts of children of undiluted European descent. There may be a strong case, from the eugenic point of view, for the continued intermarriage of Eskimo and white.—St. John's Telegram.

Siberia, the Russians claim, is distinguished as the region where people live longest. In the Altai district of the south-west according to the Communist legend, live one worker aged 144 and 320 apply. This seems truly extraordinary, but what is even more remarkable is the general dislike of the Russians for the supposedly salubrious climate of Siberia. One would think they would flock to this sanctuary of the centenarians. Perhaps the explanation is to be found in another Siberian distinction. It is also a region where people, if they happen to be mining salt, have a very short life indeed, and not a merry one.—Edmonton Journal.

Hydro Chairman Robert Saunders the other day expressed his dismay over the fact that 119 white cedar shrubs, planted by the Hydro to beautify its towers, had been stolen. We share his feelings but we are not surprised. During the development of the Alexander Muir Memorial Gardens in North Toronto, many hundreds of dollars worth of plants were stolen by light-fingered citizens who saw a way to improve their own backyards. A special police watch had to be set to protect this charming little park from its owners. Prifering of this sort has, we believe, become quite common. It is as Mr. Saunders said, "despicable and senseless."—Toronto Globe and Mail.

Highway snow removal in the Cornwall district will be improved and accelerated through decision of the Ottawa highways department to equip snowplow telephones, trucks, etc. with mobile telephone units. These will provide direct communication with division headquarters and from truck to truck. Under the system in effect for many years, snowplow operators frequently had to drive several miles before reaching a telephone to ask headquarters for instructions. With telephones installed in trucks and plows, snow

removal crews will be able to keep well posted on snow conditions on various stretches of road.—Cornwall Standard-Freeholder.

"The housewife," a culinary expert says, "always has the problem of what to do with leftover cake." Not in our house! When Mother bakes a cake she has to hide it where Father, the old feller, won't find it—or, if he would, it wouldn't be a smidgen of it left over for the rest of us.—Ottawa Citizen.

Sometimes it's hard to know at what point in the narration of a joke one should laugh. That's particularly true when it's not a very funny joke, and is being told laboriously. But there should be no doubt as to the proper point of interjection with a speaker with a burst of applause. It's when he earns it by saying something worth listening to. Under the rules of totalitarianism, however, this would not apply. You applaud when you're expected to applaud, just as though you were a guest at a studio program. Since it's all pre-arranged, the Communist listener has only to await his cue to start clapping, like a mechanical man. An example of this wooden responsiveness cropped up the other day at a Red mass meeting in Berlin. "Our people stand united in the imperialist peace camp," said a visiting Communist. Then he paused, and his 4,000 listeners broke into cheers. It hadn't occurred to them that by a slip of the tongue he had lined them up on the non-Communist side. He had meant to say "anti-imperialist peace camp."— Windsor Star.

NO DISTRACTIONS SPONDON, England.—(CP)—The Old Folks Society in this Devonshire town decided against having a television set at their headquarters. They said it would interfere with their dominos and card games.

GOOD SEAMEN HALIFAX.—(CP)—Ontario seamen form the backbone of the Canadian Navy today, says the Halifax Star. The Halifax branch of the Navy League's Seaman's Club here. "The boys from Ontario are very much in the majority," he says. "They're a fine bunch of men too—none better."

LIMOGES, France, Nov. 13.—(Reuters)—The French Communist Party Monday extended a purge of "deviationists" to Georges Guingouin, a former school teacher who led 15,000 Maquis in this area during the war, and was awarded his country's highest decorations. The wartime hero was rapped in a party statement for "not having kept up the struggle."

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