

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, SATURDAY, JUNE 6, 1953

Shut-in's Day

Once again the first Sunday in June is being observed as Shut-in's Day to remind us, as Prime Minister St. Laurent put it, "of those of our fellow citizens who, because of age or disability or illness, are not able to lead the normal type of active and busy life, and to suggest that we do something to help them feel, as they should, that they are part of our community, that they also have a contribution to make to the general well-being of us all."

When one can come and go at will it is difficult to appreciate the value of that freedom. Those who have suffered accident or illness which kept them at home or in bed for any considerable period have forced upon them the realization of the benefits of such freedom of movement.

In many cases the shut-in could go out and enjoy the country or take part in other activity if friends would only share their car or perhaps their arm. Those who take the trouble are apt to find that the guest contributes even more to the host's enjoyment than he or she receives. It is certainly no hardship to remember the shut-in but many of us deprive ourselves as well as them of enjoyment by thoughtlessness.

The company of bright and interesting people can be enjoyed at any time of year, but tomorrow's observance is intended to bring to mind that fact. Doing something about it once will undoubtedly prevent that unfortunate thoughtlessness from taking its toll of human happiness for some time to come.

Insurance Man's Warning

That one out of every three automobiles in Canada was involved in accidents during the year 1952 was the startling information given to insurance men recently. A Toronto expert and statistician also told Canadian insurance underwriters assembled in annual meetings at Lake Placid that one out of every two Canadians will be injured in an automobile mishap during his lifetime. The insurance men were urged to make a determined effort to bring home to the driving public the urgent and immediate need for more careful observance of good driving habits. Insurance rate increases were held to be far from offering a final answer to a situation.

Mr. George B. Kenney, Toronto, the speaker, said: "We must strive to dispel the driver's notion that he leads a charmed life and we must make him realize that he, and he alone, is the greatest single cause of traffic accidents—not bad roads, not poor driving conditions, not mechanical failures—but the driver."

Despite constant reiteration of Mr. Kenney's words, the toll of death, injury and property damage continues to mount alarmingly. The implied new effort of the insurance companies will be awaited with interest and will merit the full co-operation of all citizens.

The Suez Outpost

A major condition of Britain agreeing to pull its forces out of the Suez gradually is that British technicians must stay on to maintain the huge base and its \$1 billion worth of military supplies. Up until now the outside world as well as the British public has been left in the dark as to the function of this base in the Suez Canal zone. Now the government is moving to educate the public as to its importance.

The base is 90 miles long from north to south and 60 from east to west. It is a self-contained industrial estate with its own power stations, docks, railway, sewage works, and water-filtration and cold-storage plants—all paid for through the years by the British taxpayers. It represents an investment of £500 million.

It contains an immense network of repair and maintenance units. The largest ordnance depot, at Tel-el-Kebir alone supported 19 divisions in the field in World War II. Its circumference is 17 miles and its area 15 square miles. Nearly 40 miles of road and 20 of railway track intersect it. It employed 30,000 skilled men from all over Egypt during the war. The base was expanded during the year before the imagination of those who in framing Article 8 of the Anglo-Egyptian treaty, of 1936, paid tribute to the Suez Canal as the vital interest of the British Empire.

Today the canal on the one hand and the presence of Britain's strategic reserves in Egypt on the other are apt to attract undue attention, at the expense of the base proper and its transportation facilities. No one imagined in 1936 that this base would be expanded within a few years to nourish the equivalent of 41 divisions, large naval units and nearly 70 squadrons of aircraft or to handle in its peak period of activity in 1943 half a million tons of stores a month.

The base's future has now to be decided by the British and Egyptian governments. Here in the words of Mr. Selwyn Lloyd of the British cabinet, is one of the great assets of the defence of the free world. It is the major outpost of the west in the Middle East. Its custody cannot be transferred without patient discussion and watertight guarantees.

Noteworthy Anniversary

The Guardian joins with newspapers across Canada in congratulating the Montreal Gazette upon the recent celebration of its 175th anniversary. On the first day of its publication, on June 3, 1778, Montreal was a little port clinging close to the shore of the St. Lawrence with Mount Royal forest-clad in the background and beyond a wilderness. Witness the scene there today with the Dominion's largest city encircling the mountain and in intimate contact with the vast and rapidly developing hinterland beyond and continent-spanning in the activities of Canadians today. The Gazette has developed with the metropolis and has long been recognized as one of the best newspapers on the continent.

Looking forward to the anniversary, The Gazette last Saturday said something as true of many another newspaper as of itself: "There are many anniversaries in this world. Yet few are so real and human as that of a newspaper. For a newspaper is part of the life of every day. It reflects in its pages the wider world. Yet it is closely related to its own country and to its community. It provides both entertainment and information. It can accompany a person throughout his life, coming to him always new, and yet with the familiar form of the paper he knows."

EDITORIAL NOTES

Tomorrow, 1st Sunday after Trinity. 2nd Sunday after Pentecost.

"D" Day, 1944. Using sections of a pre-fabricated "Mulberry" port the allies landed on the beach of Normandy nine years ago between the rivers Orne and Vire.

Summerside citizens could rejoice at the news that there is to be no increase in Town taxes. In these days of higher costs that is a remarkable budgeting achievement.

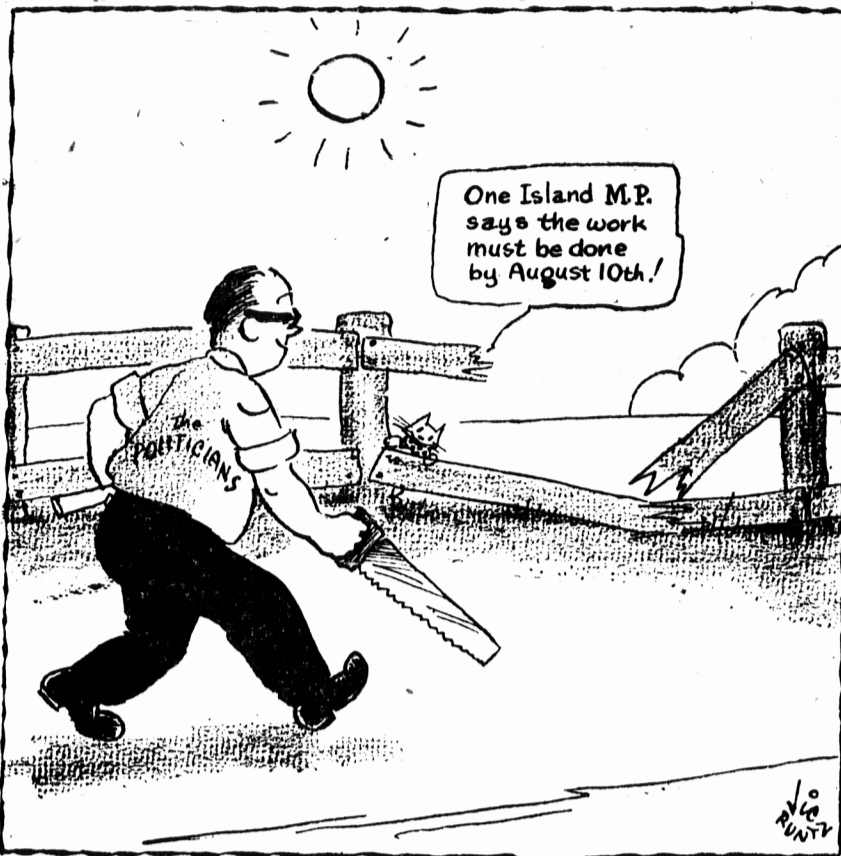
The fishing industry bids fair to rival the efficiency of packing plants which reputedly make use of everything of the pig except the squeal. The pulp remaining from the manufacture of cod liver oil has been found to contain the growth-promoting and anti-pernicious anemia vitamin B12.

A single demonstration is often more impressive than a great deal of argument. That, at any rate, is the view of Health Department nutritionists who have been demonstrating the effect of diet on rats for the benefit of school children. It is to be hoped that they are duly impressed with the fact that it is not uncommon to suffer from malnutrition despite a healthy appetite and plentiful supplies of food.

The sonic-boom, the loud noise heard when aircraft "break the sound barrier" is much in the public mind these days. It is not necessary to attain some 760 m.p.h., however, to demonstrate what happens when the speed of sound is exceeded. The speed of sound in water is only one foot per second and the effect of approaching and exceeding that speed can be studied at ease in the nearest pail or bathtub.

A plaint has been made to the Canadian Political Science Association that government in this country is getting so complicated that only cabinet members and party leaders have been able to keep up with it. The suggestion is made that specialization of M.P.'s into standing committees is the solution to the dilemma. Undoubtedly it is useful and necessary for Members to interest themselves in particular aspects of government but not to the extent of becoming specialists. The framework of our system is a group of highly trained and specialized civil servants given overall direction by elected representatives who have or should have a broader view.

Summer Occupation



The Poet's Corner

BACKYARD PUZZLE He sailed the rolling Spanish Main, Went round the Horn and back again; And if his ship was just a slat, He never gave a thought to that. He hid a treasure on the shore— The one beside the cellar door— And with his valiant little crew, He captured Kidd and Blackbeard, too. Since then the years have washed away So many memories of play, But never will his mind discard The gallant frigate in the yard. —Eugene T. Maleska, in the New York Herald Tribune.

Old Charlottetown

LAND PURCHASE ACT "All the preliminaries for carrying out the provisions of the Land Purchase Act, 1875, are being consummated. On Friday last the Right Hon. Mr. Childers, Dr. J. T. Jenkins, and J. S. Carvell, Esq., were sworn in as Commissioners, in the Province Building, by Judge Hensley. Mr. Carvell was chosen Commissioner by Wm. Cundall, Esq., and it is thought that the estate of the latter named gentleman will be the land first valued by the Commissioners. "Several of the absentee proprietors, including Lord Melville, Miss Sullivan and the Hon. Ponsibly Fame, have united in choosing Mr. Halliburton, son of Judge Halliburton (Sam Slick), to represent them on the Commission, and he will very likely be here previous to the 16th inst., when the work of the Commission formally begins. "Let us trust that from the inception of the present measure, its final termination, the utmost fairness and honesty will be manifested, and that no counter-part of the double-dealing and treachery towards the tenantry, which characterized the disposal of the award of the late Land Commission, shall be exhibited. —Prince Edward Island Times, Aug. 6, 1875. (This hope does not appear to have been entertained by the Hon. J. C. Pope, who in a letter to the editor of The Argus, pointed out that the Governor General of the Dominion was himself an extensive landed proprietor, and his nominee on the Commission, Rt. Hon. Mr. Childers, would be likely to side with the proprietors. He predicted that the Government would have to pay a stiff price for "fat wilderness lands, barren lands, and swamps in the island," and to enforce payment for rents and arrears. The \$800,000 which the would then become, themselves, the proprietors, and be compelled Island was to receive from Ottawa would probably be expended before two-thirds of the lands were paid for and "without any money on hand or means of raising it," would be called upon to pay a very large sum in addition. (This latter prediction was unfortunately too well realized. In the words of a brief presented by the Prince Edward Island Government at the Federal-Provincial Conference of December, 1950: "The purchase of these lands was necessarily a cash transaction, whereas the resale was necessarily deferred over a period of years, and the Province was not able to realize, during the twenty-five year period after Confederation, more than the interest on the Dominion advance." Interest at 5 per cent on the federal loan was deducted annually from the Island's subsidy of \$45,000 in lieu of public lands, and is still being deducted notwithstanding that land sales have ceased since 1900.

Notes By The Way

A naturalist says that it is possible to hold a crocodile's mouth shut with one hand. Well, if you're so busy you can't spare two hands for a job like that... Peterborough Examiner.

The tradition of bush flying is as deeply embedded in Canadian history as is the tradition of the wagon train in the history of the American west. The beat-up old Fokker, Stinson or what-have-you and their native-born successors, the Norseman, Beaver and Otter are the covered wagons of this country. In commercial aviation, the pungent "wire it together and fly it out" flavor of bush flying is beginning to disappear now that paved runways have made their appearance in the wilderness.—Hamilton Spectator.

Hospitals serve many purposes. They provide accommodation for those who are ill. They offer training experience for doctors and nurses. They complement the university's medical schools. They attract to the city persons from a wide area requiring hospitalization. Hospital costs are under constant review these days and Government health and welfare programs are in the public eye. A visit to our hospitals will show why these costs are necessarily high, and what valuable services are rendered in return by the skilled personnel in charge.—London Free Press.

Except for their help in the making of weather, icebergs seem to be about the most useless things in the world. Conversely, they are a nuisance and a menace as they break from their northern anchorage and float down into the sea lanes. But in this modern world some uses are being found for even the most hitherto useless things. Thus it is that an iceberg breaker is to chop a chunk of an iceberg this summer and push it over to a weather station at Eureka, Ellesmere Island. There it will provide fresh water—natural ice water, so to speak—for the crew of the weather station during the year ahead.—Windsor Daily Star.

Vanished Heroes

Tucked away in the personal column of a recent issue of the Times of London, among invitations to send flowers to disconsolate aunts, to sell old jewellery and to reside as a paying guest in the country home of a retired colonel, an advertiser announced his need for copies of a long-defunct boy's magazine. "One feels a stirring of sympathy for a man who wishes to leap a great fifty tumultuous years to live again the fictional adventures that made his heart beat faster in boyhood, though one suspects that he will be disappointed. The fault does not lie with the heroes of those days, who did their best in the most trying circumstances the villains of the period could offer, but in the widening of possibilities and the increased hazards that the last half century has brought. Buffalo Bill, his Pony Express and the scalp hunting Red Indians, so popular in those days, have weathered the years, though they appear on the screen more often than in fiction. Jack Reckless or Dauntless, as he was sometimes called, relied upon physique and manly courage to extricate himself from the tight corners in which he had been left in the previous week's episode. It is doubtful whether with such a modest stock of abilities, a hero could retain a large juvenile following over a long period of these times. He would need at least a knowledge of nuclear physics or jet aviation. Such tales as From the Slums to the Quarterback: The Story of a Lad of Grit with their uncommon and no further revenue can be expected.

The gateway to the world of adventure has been opened wide to admit the populations of the planets who cause little astonishment by their ability to chop a chunk of an iceberg this summer and push it over to a weather station at Eureka, Ellesmere Island. There it will provide fresh water—natural ice water, so to speak—for the crew of the weather station during the year ahead.—Windsor Daily Star.

The Age Old Story

Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you. Cleanse your hands, ye sinners; and purify your hearts, ye double minded.

INCOME PROTECTION INSURANCE

Could you suffer a crippling accident or unexpected sickness only to discover that your insurance protection is inadequate that it will not meet your medical and hospital fees; that it will not safeguard against loss of your income? Our policies are devised to meet and deal with such emergencies. Write us for further particulars. We will welcome an opportunity to serve you.

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The Passing Scene

By Observer CONCERNING SHUT-IN SUNDAY This special day, sponsored by the Shut-in's Day Association, an international organization, falls this year on June 7. It is one of these humanitarian gestures that help to soften the hardness and cynicism of the materialism of our day. The idea is to encourage some kind of systematic visiting of the sick and otherwise disabled persons by those who have their health and strength. We might even call it an attempt to foster a traditional religious duty which for some reason or other has been allowed to suffer deterioration. As for the primary purpose of Shut-in Sunday — visiting the sick and disabled—I think it is a good one, provided it is not permitted to develop into a tyranny. The suggestion that any humanitarian plan might possibly turn into a tyranny will seem strange to some, but the fact is that anything that is good can fall into that danger. Well trained social workers realize this and are constantly on guard against it. It is wrong to assume that all sick and disabled persons are alike. They vary in their temperaments and wants just as healthy and robust persons do. To the majority of shut-ins I fancy a visit from someone outside is helpful and sustaining. There are others, however, whose chief desire is to be left alone and their wish for privacy should be respected. Well meaning visitors to hospital patients — especially those who give the impression of being participants in a "campaign"—have been known to do more harm than good. In fact some hospital authorities have been obliged to put restrictions on visiting privileges in the interests of their patients. I mention these things not to belittle the purpose of Shut-in Sunday but to commend it, and at the same time to suggest that in all humanitarian undertakings it is a good plan to mix a godly measure of discretion with fine intentions. No one would find fault with Philip Sidney's dictum, "do no happy action of a man's life but to be fully efficacious it must be done intelligently and wisely. Visitors to shut-ins usually receive as well as give. Sickness often produces a strength of mind and spirit that is unknown to those who have never come under its discipline. The cheerful faith that someone outside is helpful and sustaining. There are others, however, whose chief desire is to be left alone and their wish for privacy should be respected. Well meaning visitors to hospital patients — especially those who give the impression of being participants in a "campaign"—have been known to do more harm than good. In fact some hospital authorities have been obliged to put restrictions on visiting privileges in the interests of their patients. 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