

THE GUARDIAN

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CHARLOTTETOWN, MONDAY, MARCH 10, 1952

Dominion Champions

The Dunstan's University debating team, comprising Messrs. Allan MacDonald and Walter Reid, scored a magnificent victory over the weekend at Ottawa, winning the Dominion championship after previously winning the Maritime and Eastern Canadian Intercollegiate contests. Their success reflects great credit not only upon themselves, but on their University and Province for the splendid training they have received.

The art of debating has in all civilized countries been held in high repute. It calls for clear, analytical thinking, wide and accurate knowledge, and forceful and persuasive expression. It is the gateway to success for young men ambitious of entering public life, but it is also of great value to professional men and to all who have views to express on any subject of public concern. This Province produced great orators in the past, most of them trained in debating assemblies which met regularly in Charlottetown and other centres. Other methods of instruction and entertainment have become more popular in recent years, but at St. Dunstan's the oldtime standards have been consistently maintained, and its debating teams have given a good account of themselves in many Canada-wide competitions. They have been runners-up for the Dominion championship, and now have won to the very highest place.

While a source of great satisfaction to themselves, to their fellow students and to their devoted instructors, their success is also something in which every Prince Edward Islander will take pride.

Fiscal Nightmare in France

It is fashionable on this continent to shrug off as but a further manifestation of Gallic temperament the recurrent cabinet crises in France. The mounting frequency with which French governments take office, only to fall a few days later, is however symptomatic of a malady far more serious than that. For it signifies, as the circumstances surrounding the defeat in the National Assembly of the government of Premier Faure indicate, an unwillingness on the part of the elected representatives of the people to recognize the consequence of inflation.

The Faure government fell because the National Assembly refused to approve a proposed 15% tax increase necessary to provide funds for French rearmament. Thus, French participation in Eisenhower's six-nation European army is put in jeopardy. No less alarming is the fact that the French Treasury is actually in the position where it must borrow cash to meet current commitments. Inflation is attacking the roots of democracy itself in France.

Meanwhile, France's trade deficit continues to climb to astronomical proportions. As it does, the value of the franc in world markets declines steadily.

It is not difficult, against such a background, to understand why President Aurore is experiencing such difficulty in finding a candidate for the appalling task of forming a government. Unless such a man is found, and found speedily, not only will the economic plight of France grow steadily worse, but the defences of the West will be put in even greater jeopardy.

Farm Financing

In the highly competitive world of today the farmer must have capital equipment far in excess of anything needed in earlier days. It is only by mechanization that farm labour can be made sufficiently productive to warrant rates of pay comparable to those of industry.

This means that the whole question of farm financing must be reconsidered. The individuals who can or will invest sufficient money in a farm to make it a fully efficient economic unit are few indeed. Operating on borrowed capital is unsatisfactory even if possible because, the commitments to investors are necessarily rigid, whereas the returns from operations are subject to wide fluctuation.

What is needed is the application of something like the joint stock company to the needs of agriculture. Just as the device of limited liability made possible the expansion of industry, it would provide capital for the many efficient farmers who are hamstrung by lack of means.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Potatoes are now the money-makers to those still fortunate in having them in store.

Now it is the nurses who are being organized for the benefit of the sick. More important almost than the indispensable doctor, the nurse is, or should be, one of our leading citizens, engaging in a profession honoured and respected everywhere.

The report that the Canadian Red Cross free blood transfusion service has provided 282,136 Canadians with blood or plasma speaks highly indeed of the people of this country, as well as of the organization which was started in 1947.

The National Advisory Council on Manpower proposes, among other things, that employers locating new plants might choose localities where the output would dovetail in with the local seasonal production peaks. Such development would certainly be ideal both from the workers' and employers' point of view but is far from easy to accomplish.

Serge Pavlovich Diaghilev, producer of Russian ballet, was born this date 1872. He studied law, music and Russian art, founded an art periodical and gave an unsuccessful exhibition in Paris. He returned to Paris in 1909 with opera and ballet. The ballet, especially "Scheherazade", made a sensation and when produced in London revolutionized English stage-dancing.

In clearing the city streets after a snowfall one of the most important steps is making sure that fire hydrants are made quickly available for emergency. It is first necessary to be able to move the equipment to the scene but before any secondary work is undertaken it should be ascertained that the clearing of hydrants has been efficiently taken in hand.

City Councillor Johnstone succeeded in "killing two birds with one stone" in his address on "Education Week". He showed the desirability of having an educated democracy to properly attend to the carrying out of civic affairs, which are, year by year, becoming more intricate and involved. It is essential that the electorate should take an intelligent interest in the welfare of the city, and to that end the electors should be provided with a fairly high standard of education.

Prime Minister St. Laurent's statement that, "We have nothing up our sleeve," and that the Government's whole programme for the session is contained in the Throne Speech is highly gratifying. There is no reason why business of the House should not be dealt with effectively as it comes up, without the waste of time and energy which usually results from the suspicion that each newly revealed item may be something being put over on the members.

Canadian bred cattle, Holsteins, Jerseys, Guernseys, and Aberdeen-Angus did remarkably well at the Cuban International Exhibition held in Havana. Our Holsteins and Jerseys made practically a clean sweep, capturing as many as 18 out of 20 classes. In this connection it may be noted that Prince Edward Island is shortly to have effective representation in the Cuban capital in the person of Mr. E. M. Robinson, manager of the Charlottetown Branch of the Bank of Nova Scotia, who will be leaving shortly on transfer to Havana.

The Federal Budget will not be brought down for a month yet. Evidently dissatisfied taxpayers are making Finance Minister Abbott's life a burden to him by persistent efforts to obtain concessions. He protests against auto manufacturers and tobacco manufacturers appealing to M. P.'s to use efforts to influence the Minister and the Cabinet to that end. But unless the M. P.'s sit up and take notice of the prevailing dissatisfaction, what is there to prevent Mr. Abbott becoming a dictator in addition to Finance Minister? It is a first duty of an M. P. to look after the interests of those who provide the wherewithal to run the country.

Though sales of passenger cars in Canada were down, shipments of made-in-Canada vehicles last year totalled 413,772 units, compared with the previous high of 390,836 in 1950, the Bureau of Statistics reports. Vehicles for the domestic market totalled 346,992 units—241,220 passenger cars and 105,772 trucks—last year compared with 357,527 units—260,653 passenger cars and 96,874 trucks—in 1950. The bureau said sales of British-made vehicles in 1951 dropped to 31,896 units compared with 64,790, with passenger cars accounting for most of the drop by slipping to 28,853 units from 60,260 in 1950. At the same time shipments of vehicles imported from the United States totalled 16,366 last year compared with 5,421 the year before.

Licence?



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.

NORTH RUSTICO SITUATION

Sir.—I'm sure that many people throughout the Maritimes and even other Provinces, are very sympathetic for the people of North Rustico, over the inability of their merchants to supply their needs during a few snow storms. I also feel sure that there must be quite a few business men on the Island today who are looking to North Rustico as an ideal place to set up business, as they would have for competitors such helpless men that it would be a cinch, with a little service to the public, to have every one dealing with them in a very short while. After reading in certain newspapers and hearing over radios all the exaggerated stories about this community, it is difficult to believe that anyone could arrive at anything else but the above conclusions.

We do not know where all the wild stories came from, but we would thank the gentleman who took it upon himself to report on the conditions of supplies available in the stores if, henceforth, in making such reports, he confined it to his own organization and not take it for granted that everyone is necessarily in the same position as he is. As far as our organization is concerned, we were never out of any more than two or three items at one time and at that for no longer than a day or so. We admit that it was trying and also very expensive to hire as many as sixteen horses in three days to go to Hunter River, but at least we have given our customers the best possible service, under prevailing circumstances, which, after all, is the main object of a Co-operative organization. Save for fuel which has been a most serious problem even when roads were good I believe that everyone has weathered the storms fairly well.

I hope that the Department of Public Work will not misinterpret my letter and think that I am not interested in having the roads opened to Rustico. I most certainly am and I feel that a plough should be stationed either at Hunter River or Rustico to begin work on this road as soon as a storm is over. If this had been the case our road would have been opened for two or three days between the first and the second storms. We do not feel, however, that this service should be given to us for reason of exaggerated circumstances but should be given on the basis that we, as taxpayers, are justified in demanding it.

My reason for writing this letter is not to criticize those who might have acted in good faith, but rather to point out that we are not as helpless as might have been anticipated to give the public the service that they have a right to.

The Poet's Corner

FROM THE PLOUGH

Thou seest the dawn's grave orange hue, With one pale streak like yellow sand. And over that a vein of blue. The air is cold above the woods; All silent is the earth and sky, Except with his own lonely moods The blackbird holds a colloquy: Over the broad hill creeps a beam, Like hope that glids a good man's brow; And now ascends the nostril-stream Of stalwart horses come to plough. Ye rigid Ploughmen, bear in mind Your labor is for future hours: Advance—spare not—nor look behind— Plough deep and straight with all your powers! —Richard Henry Horne.

The Age-Old Story

When the morning was complete the priest and elders of the people took counsel against Jesus to put him to death.

Old Charlottetown

From a letter from Lord Kimberley, Secretary of State for the Colonies, to Lieutenant Governor Robinson, 14th November, 1871: "I have been in communication with the Lords Commissioners of the Treasury on the subject of the Act of the Legislature of Prince Edward Island to establish a decimal system of currency in this Island. Their Lordships have observed that this Act contains no provision fixing the amounts to which silver and copper coins respectively may be tendered in any one payment, and they have suggested that the limits prescribed in section 7 of the Canada Act, Cap. 4, 1871, should be adopted in Prince Edward Island, viz: \$10 for silver and 25 cents for copper coins."

CURRENCY REFORM

"It appears to their Lordships that the 'American gold dollar', mentioned in Schedule A of the Act, should be defined e.g., as the Gold Dollar of the United States of America, coined after 1st July, 1834, and before 1st of January, 1852, or after the latter date, but of the same weight and standard of fineness." And they consider that it would be better to exclude all silver Foreign coins from circulation in the Colony, but that if the Mexican and Spanish Dollars be admitted, those coins should be strictly defined. "Their Lordships conclude by recommending that the Legislature of Prince Edward Island should pass an amended Currency Act in accordance with the provisions of the Canada Act."

FARM PROBLEMS

Sir.—I hesitated at first to use the term heading this article as a topic for discussion, because it has become so hackneyed, shop-worn and commonplace from over-use, that I feared the main reaction would be the exclamation "At it again!" and all effort to provoke consideration would be by-passed. However, that is one of the obligations of a writer, even an occasional correspondent to your Forum: to secure and retain the people's attention. But there ARE such things as farm problems and not only the farmer concerned is affected, but the entire populace of the state, indirectly in many instances but nevertheless within the range and reach. So no apologies are in order may we proceed with the discussion. There is not much to be gained by continually harping on the fact of farm problems unless it is known what they are and then endeavor to do something about them. The following might be suggested as those of major consequence: Commencing with (1) Lack of operating capital and followed by (2) High cost of equipment; (3) Shortage of man power; (4) Locating markets for farm products; (5) High cost of transportation; (6) High cost of fertilizers; (7) Death of producer market-associations; (8) Excessive cost of livestock feed.

The first five of these involve legislative action and co-operation, but solutions for the remaining three are within the capacity of producers themselves. Of course there are other problems of minor consequence peculiar to the individual that may invite community action but cannot be considered more than indirectly of Provincial or Federal Government concern. The entire eight specified problems do not necessarily apply to individual farmers, nor do they, else there would be a complete tie-up in production; but where they do apply, even in part, there should be loosening up that would permit a much needed increase in production. But there is one overall problem that faces every farmer in the country and constitutes the gamble in farming. There is no way of determining definitely how to do the right thing at the right time. Sometimes reasoning will prove a useful guide, but as a general rule, credit is given to old Lady Luck whenever anything approaching the miraculous occurs. It is not the intention to discuss these specified problems on this occasion nor to explore for ways and means by which they can be dispersed. It is not a one man job. But they are deserving of consideration by some authority capable of giving a lead that will eventually terminate in a measure of assurance to the farmer. An equitably organized Provincial body of producers, with at least three quarters of the maximum signed up but not under pressure, operating efficiently under

Voluntary Waste

Sir.—A child who throws bread away on the school grounds is beginning one of the most baneful habits in our modern society, and ought to be carefully corrected. In a land like Canada where there is such an overflowing abundance of all good things, our ingratitude is all too apt to be shown in wastefulness, in one form or another. Wasting food or money is an insult to God by whose mercy these gifts are given to us. Do we not know that in many lands, just as worthy as we, are people who are dying because we have them in such abundance. Parents and teachers do well to teach their children that wasting is an evil, that is apt to lead to serious consequences. Perhaps, more than that the people who depend upon an old age pension have, in their younger days, let slip through their fingers, wastefully, thousands of dollars. Now, they are living from hand to

Seeking Employment

Sir.—Instead of our government talking about labour shortages, especially during the spring, why not do something about it. Why do they give employment on road maintenance machines to farmers and not to men who need the work and who have to leave the Province to look for jobs? I am a Vet who served for five years, four of which were overseas, and since I came home I have applied for a number of jobs, but have been told there were no openings, even though I have good recommendations. I applied to the Department of Public Works on several occasions, but was told there were no openings, even though on two occasions men were taken on a few days later, once in less than a week, including a neighbouring farmer, who left his farm work to do so. I have had the experience that I've had. My name is registered at the Unemployment Office and at one time I made enquiries through the Legion for a Dominion Government job, but got no satisfaction; and like a lot of other men, I have had to leave the Province at different times in order to earn a living. So why not let our Government give these jobs to men who need them, and let the farmers stay on their farms, and perhaps there won't be so many leaving for Labrador in the Spring. I am, Sir, etc. STILL ANOTHER VET Stanhope, P. E. I.

Attention Farmers

Until further notice our feed warehouse will be open ONLY on MONDAYS and THURSDAYS from 9:00 A.M. to 11:30 A.M. Signed: WILTSHIRE DAIRYING CO.

Civic Tax Appeals

NOTICE is hereby given that Tuesday, March 18th, 1952, at 10:00 A.M. in the Court Room in the City Building has been fixed as the time and place for the hearing of all Appeals against Civic Valuations and Assessments. Charlottetown, March 8th, 1952. J. A. FULLERTON, City Clerk.

Notes By The Way

There is a national interest in having the Capital of the good old Dominion of Canada represented at the Coronation by Mayor Whitton. There is no one in Canada more fitted in personality, distinction and democratic fitness than this lady Mayor of Ottawa, to be present at the Empire's most colorful pageant.—(St. Catharines Standard.)

There is a feeling of Spring in the air. While there is still snow in the residential districts and we are still wearing our Winter clothing, a subtle difference has crept into the atmosphere. The daylight hours have lengthened to the extent where it is now possible to finish a day's work before darkness completely settles. It will take a few weeks before Spring actually makes her arrival, but at least "old man Winter" is beginning to bow out.—(Brockville Recorder and Times.)

The average office staff, employed full time, actually is on the job 18 percent, of the hours in the year. This figure is arrived at by taking 35 hours as the work week, less 70 hours off for annual holiday, less 66 hours for eight statutory holidays, less an average of three holidays not statutory (that Monday when July 1 is on Tuesday, etc.) Nineteen percent of working time does not include time out for coffee or tea, or casual illness, or lateness (which may be offset by overtime). Or talking to friend on telephone or plain and fancy loafing. (The office where this is being typed knows nothing of this last.) Curiously many young women who graduated from office work ten or fifteen years ago and are now keeping house for husband and children are for the most part happily slaving for maybe 59 percent of the hours of the year, or around 14 hours per day, including Sundays, holidays and Christmas, especially Christmas.—(The Printed Word.)

Delegation of Vancouver citizens who interviewed Attorney General Gordon Wismer to urge a lower car license fee was on solid ground. The group, sponsored by the BC Automobile Association, asked for a \$10 license in place of the present \$25 charge. British Columbia motorists probably pay most heavily of any in North America for the "privilege" of driving a car. On top of the high freight charges for cars and parts inherent in our geographic distance from manufacturers, we are loaded with the highest tax structure. We pay the highest license fee scale in Canada, a \$10 registration fee (highest in Canada), 10 cents on a driver's license, and 10 cents on every gallon of gasoline. As an extra gallon of gasoline costs us 3 cents, we pay an extra 3 percent (sales tax) on new and used cars, and on all parts and equipment.—(Vancouver Province.)

It has been openly and officially announced that the executive of the Royal Agricultural Winter Fair are toying with the idea of keeping the fair open the Sunday that falls between the opening and the closing dates. Life today, in and around any large Canadian city, would pretty well uphold the executive of the Royal in their so-called broad-mindedness, and it is no longer unusual to see farm people working on the Sabbath. Many field operations are easily viewed as emergent and unhappily there is an element in the farm population that no longer hides behind that excuse. However, in spite of the glaring exceptions there are there the core of the Canadian agricultural population is orthodox in its concepts and religious in its thinking. If organized and official agriculture gave consent to an open Sunday at the Royal it would be an out and out defiance of the deep-rooted traditions of the rural population.—(Farmer's Advocate.)

Mr. James Hartley, MLA for MacLeod, has mentioned a new crop hazard, mice. Grain that has been in the swath or stock all Winter is being destroyed "by mice in their millions". And at the same time Mr. Hartley has drawn attention to the fact that an intensive war against coyotes has been waged for the past couple of years, with a good deal of public money going into the war, and thousands of coyotes have been taken out of circulation. Coyotes feed largely on mice. Sheep men are mostly responsible for the anti-coyote campaign. These wild dogs haven't been bothering other types of farm livestock to any great extent, although chickens and perhaps the odd calf have been taken. But the loss in wheat, and in killing coyotes, may be much greater than the loss in sheep which would have been caused by not killing coyotes. It's always dangerous to upset nature's balance.—(Calgary Albertan.)

Every citizen of the nations is involved in this waste, who will deny but that God is taking account of it and holding us all responsible. I am, Sir, etc. W. I. GREEN. Stanley Bridge.

Seeking Employment

Sir.—Instead of our government talking about labour shortages, especially during the spring, why not do something about it. Why do they give employment on road maintenance machines to farmers and not to men who need the work and who have to leave the Province to look for jobs? I am a Vet who served for five years, four of which were overseas, and since I came home I have applied for a number of jobs, but have been told there were no openings, even though I have good recommendations. I applied to the Department of Public Works on several occasions, but was told there were no openings, even though on two occasions men were taken on a few days later, once in less than a week, including a neighbouring farmer, who left his farm work to do so. I have had the experience that I've had. My name is registered at the Unemployment Office and at one time I made enquiries through the Legion for a Dominion Government job, but got no satisfaction; and like a lot of other men, I have had to leave the Province at different times in order to earn a living. So why not let our Government give these jobs to men who need them, and let the farmers stay on their farms, and perhaps there won't be so many leaving for Labrador in the Spring. I am, Sir, etc. STILL ANOTHER VET Stanhope, P. E. I.

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