

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, MAR. 18, 1952

Farmers' Meetings

The annual meetings of the various farmers' organizations of the Province will open this afternoon with the Sheep Breeders' Association meeting, followed this evening by the Swine Breeders, on Wednesday by the Dairymen's Association, and on Thursday by the Central Farmers' Institutes and by a special general meeting of the Federation of Agriculture on Thursday night. These very important meetings are being held concurrently with the sitting of the Legislature, but it is to be hoped that the members of the latter body will be able to attend some at least of the farm meetings. This applies to our urban as well as rural members if they wish to keep in personal touch with what is transpiring in our most important industry. Later, no doubt, the Federation of Agriculture will present its annual brief to the Legislature, summing up the recommendations of the farm meetings and suggesting policies for the future. The presentation of these briefs serves an excellent purpose, and the discussion which usually follows is often quite illuminating.

Our farm leaders who year after year give so freely of their time and attention to this organizational work, have done much to raise the status of the industry and cannot be too highly commended. These men are frequently to be found among the prize winners at agricultural exhibitions both in this Province and on the mainland. In any case they set the pace in their communities and work in close co-operation with our Federal and Provincial agricultural officials in improving production, processing and marketing methods.

The set-up in this Province in this connection is perhaps the best and most efficient in any part of Canada. For years past we have been fortunate in having devoted officials in both departments whose services have been of incalculable importance in placing Prince Edward Island products in the forefront. Their work would be greatly handicapped but for the zeal and enthusiasm of our farm organizations, and the support given these organizations by our farmers generally throughout the Province. Farming is a long established industry in this Island, and it has been by a continuous process of trial and error that we have reached our present stage of proficiency. We are the envy of other Provinces in this respect, but we have still far to go, and many problems to face, if we wish to realize the objectives our farm leaders have in mind.

No worthwhile objective is static. It moves with the times. Transportation and other improvements required today are on a far greater scale than the requirements thought necessary a few years ago. That is one reason why our annual farmers' meetings are of such interest and importance. The outcome of their deliberations is never quite the same; there are always some new factors to be taken into account, some new horizon beyond the present one to be glimpsed, some earlier tentative plans to be discarded or formulated into concrete policy. This is only another way of saying that the industry is alive and pulsating. Nor is there any reason to fear for its future in this Province while it is permeated by the spirit it shows today.

Vital Educational Issue

Another leading American educationist, Dr. Robert M. Hutchins, has warned of the danger of confusing higher education with the training given in the professional and other occupational courses. In a speech at Convocation Hall, Toronto, Dr. Hutchins went so far as to say that liberal education in the United States is non-existent. As he defines the term, there is no relationship between these two aspects of modern university education. The practical courses are not education in the liberal sense, and when they are confused with such education, they destroy it.

"The point of confusion," comments the Globe and Mail in an arresting editorial, "is undoubtedly in the definition of education and the conception of its function. It has been all too easy to assume that possession of a degree indicated a superior level of intellectual qualification. Such superiority obviously merited higher material reward. As soon as that became the criterion of the value of university education, the destruction of its true purpose became almost inevitable. It is this false purpose to which the universities have too generously

lent themselves that Dr. Hutchins denounces.

"Some time, sooner or later, if disaster is not to overtake higher education, the issue will have to be joined. The universities will have to decide whether they are to be glorified vocational schools, or the custodians and transmitters of the grand achievements of the human mind. There is infinite hope in the growing realization that scientific and technical training is not enough; that without a grasp of the deeper issues of life, without a persistent, conscious search for the meaning underlying the universe, the result is failure. It is failure not only in the barren waste of individual lives, but for human society. Such a recognition is not a blind adherence to outworn tradition, but the wise acceptance of the conditions of life. Man is not a pair of hands, but a spiritual being. That belief founded Western civilization. Only that can save it."

EDITORIAL NOTES

The Red Cross drive and the Nurses' Association campaign are in the limelight; both worthy and deserving organizations.

Nurses of the Atlantic Provinces are represented in Halifax just now for a three-day Institute of Nurses.

It was natural to expect that in the advancement of women they would enter every available profession, not excepting that of burglary. The past week indicates that, for women anyway, crime does not pay.

Sheep breeders and swine breeders associations are meeting in Charlottetown and are assured of a warm welcome. Both have brought fame to the Island by the excellence of their product.

With Nova Scotia's new long distance operator toll switching system there should be a considerable speed-up in placing calls from Island points to all parts of our neighbouring Province.

The value of airplane emergency service is being realized more and more, and has been especially outstanding during the recent snow blocked roads and rails. Farmer Woodside and Mr. Paul Sharpe have rendered yeoman service in this respect.

Next year will see the hundredth anniversary of the public school system of this Province. The recent growth of modern school buildings and the proposed salary increases for teachers will each contribute to making satisfactory comparisons.

The debate on the Federal Address in the House of Commons is slated to finish this week, to be followed by the submission of Government estimates. All here will be anxious to learn what provision has been made for the many public works necessary, including the Federal Building, Armouries, etc.

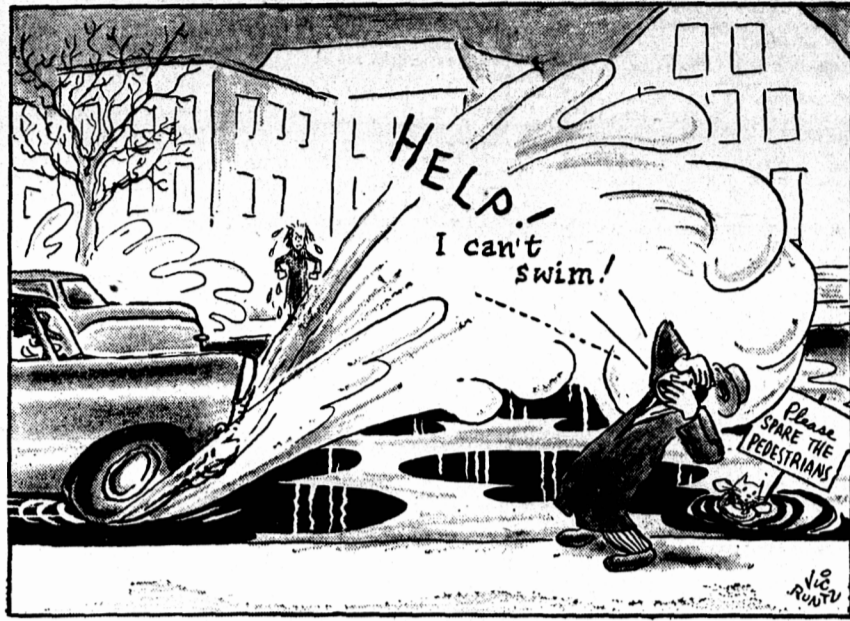
Lawrence Sterne, British humorist, died this date 1768. An Anglican clergyman, he wrote miscellaneous pieces from 1741 on. His most notable works are "Tristram Shandy" and "A Sentimental Journey." He carried the sentimental novel to its extreme but possessed a mastery of emotion and his humour indicated great self-possession and detachment.

Dr. Otto Strasser, one time Nazi stalwart now makes his home at Paradise, N. S., but is not satisfied. He wants to return to Germany to start a new party. The Ottawa government refuses him a passport. He has applied to a German court at Karlsruhe to declare that his German citizenship is intact, and should they do so a passport from here would be unnecessary.

As will be noted from an advertisement in today's columns, the Prince Edward Island Innkeepers' Association are sponsoring an essay contest for school students up to and including Grade XI on the subject, "The Value of the Tourist Industry to Prince Edward Island." This is an excellent way of making the younger generation tourist conscious and also of encouraging proficiency in the art of composition. Those participating will benefit materially, whether they are among the prize winners or not.

Premier Jones may take a leaf out of his Newfoundland neighbour's book, and bring new industries to the Province. The Newfoundland Government has signed an agreement with Swiss and German interests for the establishment of a \$1,000,000 pressed board industry, with the Government guaranteeing half the financial outlay. The factory will be built on the site of the recently completed birch mill at near-by Donovan's, and will utilize some of the mill's waste products.

We Know It's Leap Year, But--



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.

KENSINGTON SNOW PLOWS

Sir,—I wonder if our Minister of Public Works is aware of the distance the two Kensington snow plows and their four operators have opened for travelling since the recent storms. It is certainly a feeble try at snow fighting. The people in the outlying districts would be obliged if he would look into the matter and replace either the machines or the operators, whichever is necessary. I am Sir, etc. FARMER.

IRISHTOWN, P.E.I.

FARM FINANCING

Sir,—The Guardian does well to pinpoint the basic problem of "Farm Financing" (March 10 editorial) because, if for no higher reason, the capital investment and the operating costs of the average Canadian farmer in 1952 simply demand efficiency and the business approach not only to production but, also, to marketing, if the operator is to remain solvent.

My understanding is that the capital invested in the nation's 710,000 farms which according to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics, was \$4,222 millions in 1941 is nudging the \$8,000 millions level in 1952. It is not to be wondered at, therefore, that the technique of earlier years, in spotlighting the gross money-value of Canadian agricultural activity is no longer adequate. In other words, our farmers have been taught in the hard school of urban business, the fundamental lessons concerning operating costs, interest on capital investment, depreciation charges—not to mention the chain-reactions following inevitably from the point at which the margin between costs and revenues vanish, and the sheriff appears!

As one of the farm editors says forthrightly: "The slapdash methods of producing and marketing in the so-called 'good old days' are definitely out of step with these times. From our city friends we learned that it's the NET that counts—and from urban organized labor we get the constructive principle of the living wage."

In your editorial columns of March 5 ("Reassuring Survey") I see these figures, which seem to fit my present thought: "Figures compiled by the Financial Post give an indication of how Canada is doing. Total investment, \$3,800 million in 1950; \$4,500 million in 1951. Labor income, \$8,272 million in 1950; \$9,800 million in 1951."

It will be observed that the capital investment in those two years exceeds that of the entire agricultural industry, and that labor income increased by \$1,528 million in 1951 over 1950—i.e., the equivalent of the entire NET revenue of the nation's farmers in 1950. I am, Sir, etc. READER.

The Poet's Corner

MARCH March with her warlike name and warlike ways Comes armed with swords and promises again. Presenting us a hint of April days—A springtime sun; the anodyne of rain. Then, snatching gifts away and drawing forth An icy blade to brandish at her hip. She calls her gusty cohorts from the North And bids them seize us in a wintry grip. But as we bow, resigned to bear the yoke, She lets us go—this fickle Amazon. Whose very laugh conceals a thunder-stroke. Whose frown becomes a smile to lead us on. —Eugene T. Maleska.

ROYAL FISH Sturgeon caught in English waters traditionally belong to the crown, and taken deliveries are made to this day.

Notes By The Ways

A fountain pen company across the border has been awarded a large contract for the manufacture of delay elements for artillery fuses. It provides a new angle of approach to that old question of the pen and the sword. — Windsor Star.

People who think things were better in the good old days may be disillusioned by a couple of clay tablets, dated about 1800 B. C., recently dug up in Iraq. They are covered with inscriptions in the ancient Babylonian language, consisting mostly of collections of proverbs—some of which, with only slight alteration, are still in common use today. One section, however, was obviously a letter to the editor. Translated, it reads: "The poor man is better dead than alive. If he has bread he has no salt, if he has a house he has no stall, if he has a stall he has no house." It sounds as if they had inflation and a housing problem thirty-five hundred years ago in Babylon. — Edmonton Journal.

Scottish nationalists object to the Queen's being designated by the name of Elizabeth II because, as they say, Scotland was a kingdom independent of England when Queen Elizabeth reigned from 1533 to 1603. They have even gone to the highest court in the Empire to make the Scottish objection good. Canada cannot remain indifferent to our country, discovered by Jacques Cartier in 1535, was a French colony in the time of the reign of the first Elizabeth. If the nationalists win their point what will be the attitude of our country? — Progres de Hull.

A Port Arthur man is building a replica of a cow with the intention of concealing himself inside so that he may shoot crows as they alight in the fields. How long will the crows be in learning to distrust that particular cow? This column heard of a better, or at least a cheaper way. It is to fold sticky fly paper in the shape of a conical drinking cup, sticky side up. Set it in the ground with a few pieces of corn inside. The crow reaches down for the corn. The inverted cup sticks and puts the crow in darkness from which it attempts to escape by flying upwards, and on until it exhausts its strength and falls again to earth, dead. — Port Arthur News-Chronicle.

One of our readers found a letter in his mail which, though inscribed with his street and number, was addressed to a person he never heard of. He wrote: "Not known at," remained it and was duly beguiled when it returned to him two days later. He repeated the process, and yet a third time the letter came to his door. "What, O what," he asks, "is the answer?" In these modern times of "economy" delivery, quite a few people hereabouts have reported the case of the letter that either became obsolescent on the way or didn't come at all. Now we have the case of the letter that will not stop coming. Somewhere in between those two superlatives we may regain equilibrium. And then again we may not. In any case, it is encouraging that the letter got from a mailbox to the terminal and

The Paper-Chase (The Spectator, London) The rise in the price of The Times from 9 cents to 12 cents is among other things, the latest symptom of the sustained upward movement in the price of paper—a movement which, it is said, is not finished yet. It has gone on for so long that paper prices have far outstripped those of other major commodities. In the inflationary race paper keeps well up with the leaders. From that fact flows a variety of consequences besides, the rise in the prices of newspapers and periodicals.

The Essence Of A Citizen

Citizenship is a big word, with more than one meaning. It can be defined legally, and weighed in terms of rights and duties, but its implications don't end there. Primarily, as the editor of the Fort William Times-Journal sees it, citizenship is a matter of everyday living and a thing of the heart: "In the case of Fort William, it is the sum total of impulses and actions similar to the circumstances surrounding the death and burial of a young man in West Fort William just a few days ago. "The stricken resident died destitute. His closest relative was his father, a farmer of Alberta whose crop was covered with snow this fall, leaving him almost broke. "Casual friends came to the rescue without any fanfare. They contributed enough money to purchase a plot in the cemetery and pay for the funeral. They dug down for the train fare for the father to come to Fort William for the funeral. "While the father was here a restaurant owner in the west end would not allow the man to pay for his meals. When time came for his departure, he was driven to the station in a taxicab without charge. "It is only because a newspaperman happened to overhear a chance remark about the affair, is there this publicity about the case. The principal did what they did without thought of recognition."

Old Charlottetown (And P. E. I.) INTERCOLONIAL EXPRESS "The agent of the Intercolonial Express Company in this city has purchased a fine horse and express wagon, in order to more fully carry out the business of the company. He has also secured the services of an energetic and obliging expressman, Mr. Richard Cody. Under the management of Mr. Chappelle, the patronage of the Intercolonial Express is rapidly increasing." —The Examiner, March 7, 1952.

The Passing Scene

By Observer A LETTER TO THE PREMIER II Than yourself, Mr. Premier, no political leader in this Island's history has been in a better position to encourage the agricultural way of life, because none has had more knowledge of what it is all about. Somehow if I say it with respect) I cannot feel that everything possible is being done to safeguard the position we have attained in this basic industry, and I do feel that measures could be taken to strengthen it. What these measures may be I would not have the temerity to suggest, nor, also, do I wish to suggest many of your political associates, my knowledge of farming in any of its branches is extremely amateurish. My sole excuse for mentioning it at all is that in a small way I like to study the social behaviour of communities and I know that here, as elsewhere, such behaviour is considerably influenced by economic factors. To those who love this Province—and that includes about everybody who has ever seen it—it is heart-sickening to see much of its land being wasted by un-sound practices. And it is frightening to realize the extent to which farm abandonment is going on from one end of the Island to the other. Surely, by one means or another, it ought to be possible to get at the root causes. It does not take a prophet to foresee that unless something be done by legislative or other means the gradual decline of P. E. I. as a major food-producing area (major in proportion to its size, that is) is inevitable.

The economic aspect, though obviously of tremendous importance, is not the only consideration. The cultural aspect also deserves emphasis. Unless we can find some way to strengthen our agricultural economy we must expect the pastoral way of life, than which there is nothing finer in all the world, to corrode and deteriorate. That, if it should ever happen, would ultimately mean the death of the province, in the sense that so many of us have known and loved it. The bringing in of displaced persons from Europe may or may not be good business. Some say it is, others say it isn't. Certainly, it is a fine, humanitarian act and that in itself is enough to commend it. But who will deny that we have "displaced" persons of our own, quite a number of them? Young able men born and bred on our good red soil, confused and bewildered, thwarted in their natural desire to establish themselves in the kind of life which would do them the most good and in which they could best serve their generation.

It may be that in some cases financial assistance under some sound long range plan would be helpful. Chiefly they need sympathetic counsel and encouragement, reassurance regarding their necessary place in the economic and cultural development of their native land. I do not think they are being given this, in the sense of encouragement, and reassurance with sufficient emphasis. I seem to sense, Mr. Premier, more than a suggestion of deterioration in the outlooks and visions of many of our young people. There is more than a touch of scepticism regarding our traditions and customs, a sort of half-articulate cynicism which bodes no good for any community. No doubt some of this is simply a reflection of the materialistic concept of life which, unhappily, has touched us all to some extent. Much of it, I am sure, is due to economic perplexity which a little more ingenuity and imagination in government over-all policy could help to dispel.

Then, there is the liquor question, problem, or fiasco, whichever you like to call it. I do not need to be reminded that the liquor "touch" subject on this Island. Actually, in view of our insular geographical position, our small population and the basically sound human stock we have to deal with, liquor should present no problem of any magnitude. Our present confusion is due more than anything else to past experiments in trying to legislate people into a way of temperance instead of using the far better methods of education, good sense, and realism.

Whatever the cause, the harm has been done and it will take extraordinary courage and resolution to bring about any permanent improvement. There is, probably, still time for something to be done to bring some sort of order out of the chaos. If, however, we pursue our present course of withering complacency for another ten years or so, it will be too late.

JOHANNESBURG — (CP) — Police discovered big plantations of marijuana, source of an illegal drug, in the native reserve of Sekukundland. More than 30 natives were hauled into court and more than 32,000 of the plants were destroyed.

DRUG SOURCE

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