

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, JUNE 13, 1952

The Late Mr. Burnett

The sudden death about midnight last evening of Mr. J. R. Burnett, F.J.I., veteran editor and managing director of this newspaper, has come as a stunning blow to every member of The Guardian staff and will, we have no doubt, be deeply regretted throughout the City and Province. For over sixty years in active journalism, he was in daily attendance at his office, and performed his duties as usual yesterday, apparently in good health. His sudden passing was due to a heart attack.

A native of Aberdeen, Mr. Burnett came to this Province from Edinburgh to take over the management of The Guardian in 1912, and had since devoted himself wholeheartedly to building it up as a Provincial newspaper. He was also active as an elder of St. James Presbyterian Church, and took a special interest in the Boy Scout movement, being honoured a few years ago in this connection with the award of the Scouts' Medal of Merit.

As a newspaper man Mr. Burnett lived by his frequently expressed philosophy: "The less an editor appears personally before his reading public, the better for his influence on the community." This was the example set by Old Country newspapers with which he was associated in early life. Nevertheless, he was in close personal contact with public affairs and public men over a long period of years, and his advice and counsel were sought on many occasions.

It is difficult to find words to comment on the close human relationship which existed between Mr. Burnett and every member of The Guardian staff, and impossible at this time adequately to express the sense of loss which his death has occasioned. However, it can be said that he was devotedly attached to his family, to his church, to his community and to his friends, and sought always to live "as in his Master's eye." He never obtruded his religious convictions upon others, but no one could be long in his company without realizing that these were indeed the guiding principles of his life.

The value of that life, we feel assured, is by no means ended. Certainly Mr. Burnett's memory will live in the hearts of all his associates, a very precious possession, and his example will be their surest guide and inspiration in the years to come.

Growing Charlottetown

That Charlottetown is growing should be evident to anyone who is familiar with this Provincial capital. The emphasis given in the report of the City Health Officer is only the latest of many efforts to draw attention to that fact. Yet the physical boundary of the city has remained unchanged since it consisted of far less than half its present population.

Some slight relief has been obtained by the incorporation of the city's suburbs under the Village Services Act but the result has been mainly to bring home to the residents of those areas that it is not easy or inexpensive to provide the services which are necessary for a reasonable standard of living in a closely built up area.

The fact is that the area necessary for city expansion should be taken into its boundaries before rather than after development takes place. The community as a whole, and Charlottetown and its suburbs is one community, should be able to control and direct development so that the cost of streets, drainage, water, schools and all the rest is kept down to reasonable proportions.

In this Province our total population is not unduly large and it should not be too difficult, with a little planning, to provide comfortable, healthful and inexpensive homes for our urban population.

Health Insurance Plan

Of particular interest in the report of the Provincial Health Planning Commission, released for publication yesterday, are the detailed proposals for medical insurance under a voluntary non-profit prepayment plan. These proposals are published in full in today's issue, and, as they concern all our citizens, will doubtless be studied very carefully.

While commending the services now provided by the Blue Cross to its members, it is felt that the setting up of a Province-

wide scheme on the same basis would be uneconomical. Moreover, it would not provide for preventive medicine. This is an important feature of the Commission's proposal, as is also the provision for diagnostic consultation services at a minimum flat fee.

While the scheme would require government support, it is emphasized that the administration should be provided jointly by the Government and the medical profession.

The report goes into the history of the medical health services in this Province from early days, and contains a vast amount of information and statistics, prepared under the capable direction of the Commission chairman, Dr. J. Harold Shaw. The Federal health grants programme, in connection with which the Commission was appointed in 1948, is outlined. A number of the Commission's earlier recommendations have already been implemented, but the matter of a health insurance plan was left in abeyance between the Federal and Provincial Governments. It has now been finalized and presented to Ottawa for consideration.

EDITORIAL NOTES

The Excess Profit Tax is a thoroughly bad tax, much of it squeezed out of the wrong firms, by the wrong methods for the wrong reasons.

Saskatchewan is evidently of the opinion that the electorate cannot have too much of a good thing, and thereupon rejects its C.C.F. government by an increased majority.

In the West drought is delaying the grain crop, while in the Maritimes the super-abundant rain is handicapping spring labours of our farmers. Nature's patronage is seemingly ill-divided.

Canada's forces are inadequate when measured against Britain's. If we were making proportionately the same effort as the British, we should have close to 300,000 men under arms. Actually, we have fewer than 100,000.

Saturday is Air Force Day and the R. C. A. F. Station at Summerside will hold open house in the afternoon to welcome citizens who come to pay their respects to Canada's airmen and their fellows.

We are apt to overlook the Old Country as a source of oil. The output of U.K. oil refineries rose by 75 per cent last year to exceed 16 million tons, against 9 million tons in 1950. It is hoped to raise output to 24 million tons by the end of 1952.

Congratulations are due to Rev. W. G. Hogg on attaining his life-long ambition, ordination as a priest in the Church of England in Canada. His Sunday School by radio has for years been a much appreciated feature in the Maritime Provinces.

Canada's first plant for the extraction of sulphur has been opened by the Shell Oil Company of Canada Ltd. in Alberta. It is designed to produce sulphur from natural gas for woodpulp production but its contribution to the Canadian sulphur supply should also aid in keeping up the production of fertilizers.

Frances (Fanny) Burney, English novelist, was born this date 1752. She never went to school but taught herself to read and write. Her first novel, planned while still in her teens, was "Evelina". It achieved extraordinary success but her many other works have little merit, perhaps because of the deadening effect of five years at court as Mistress of the Robes.

Ontario's 300 cheese factories have approved a blanket contract which confirms an agreement between the Federal government and the Ontario Cheese Producers Marketing Board establishing a floor price of 24 cents a pound for top grade cheese. The agreement under the provisions of the Federal Agricultural Products Marketing Act, is based on a guaranteed advance from the provincial government of 24 cents a pound for No. 1 white, unwaxed cheese.

A "pep talk" by a competent authority is refreshing and inspiring, and that is what Mr. Lionel A. Forsythe gave the largely attended dinner of the Charlottetown Board of Trade. He is President of the largest industrial concern in the Maritimes, Dominion Steel and Coal Co. Ltd., yet he was proud and envious of the reputation of this Province in connection with its perfection attainments in the various fields of agricultural endeavour. Making the most of what one has, in his opinion, is better than having fortunes thrust upon us. The soil and fisheries are our foundation stock on which we are building steadily and securely.

The Horse Needn't Be Stolen



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.

AGAINST CRANKS

Sir,—Observer's recent comment to cranks is absurd. Praising cranks is tantamount to condoning a negative and warped outlook on life; for this is the accepted connotation of "crank" in the minds of the majority of unobservant Islanders who are old-fashioned enough to call a spade a spade. Socrates, St. Paul, St. Francis of Assisi and Christ were certainly not cranks, for theirs was an outlook of joy, of optimism, which can only come from a realization of the fullness of life, the power, beauty and goodness of God's creation. I should venture to call them "crankers" in as much as they were active, dynamic, human, while cranks are as a rule grim, morose and the walking antithesis of full humanness. Crankers they were too inasmuch as each of them animated the machines of their civilization, as it were, and sent into action movements, good and novel, which were to make men more human and therefore, more saintly. Cranks, on the other hand, generally endorse some movement which is old and time-rejected, Prohibition, for example. I cannot fathom why we should attempt to praise or compliment any person who, in his blindness, persists in calling evil what God created and deemed good. In other words I suggest that we merely whisper, out of Christian charity, the presence of one who calls grass red and wine (from God's grapes) wicked—in stark defiance of earth's rolling, gay, green mantle and the appalling miracle of Canada. I am, Sir, etc. "REALIST"

An Awful Scare

(Globe and Mail)

A mouse, so we are told, can frighten an elephant. There may be something to it, for the wealthy, powerful Canadian Broadcasting Corporation has been terrified half to death by Canada's frowny little Communist Party.

The CBC had made elaborate preparations for a two-hour production—in the Ukrainian language—of Nikolai Rimski-Korsakov's opera "May Night" which is based on a story of Nikolai Gogol. It saw no harm in the fact that the two Nikolais were Russians. Neither did anybody else. Even Senator Joseph McCarthy would concede that it is within the bounds of patriotism to read the one's novels, and listen to the other's music.

But all of a sudden—just two weeks before the scheduled performance—Grandma CBC discovers that 1952 was the centenary of Gogol's death; and that the Communists were taking advantage of the occasion to whoop him up as a proponent of Russian-Ukrainian unanimity. At this, Granny let out a piercing scream, leaped on a chair, and announced that "May Night" had been cancelled, lest the CBC should appear to be taking up a position in a political controversy within a section of the population of Canada.

The CBC might have managed this differently. It might have paid no attention to the Communist caperings. Practically nobody in Canada takes these quaint characters seriously. Or—if it insisted on taking them seriously—it might have prefaced the performance with a statement giving them the back of its hand. But being a timorous old lady, it did neither. It went into a panic, and called off the whole thing. What the long-run effects of this terrible scare will be, goodness knows. Already (so we hear) CBC stenographers have thrown away their bouquias; and CBC executives have been tipped off—in a friendly way, of course—that it isn't really necessary to serve caviar at cock-

Notes By The Ways

An Ontario magistrate is reported as saying that the penalties for an accused person should be determined in accordance with his economic position. Thus, we suppose, a \$10,000-a-year man, accused of murder would be hanged, while a \$2,000-a-year man in the same trouble would get off with a reduced charge of manslaughter and a couple of years. Strange things—and minds—come to the surface, these days. —Ottawa Journal.

Is not Parliament going ahead rather rapidly with this business of making new crimes out of things that have not hitherto been criminal? It has now enacted that perjury exists whenever a person has sworn to one statement at one time and to a contradiction of that statement at another time, and that the Crown shall not have to prove the falsity of either statement; therefore one of them—and it does not matter which—must be perjury. We fancy that if this were a good way of dealing with perjury, some older and more experienced lawyers than those now running the Canadian Parliament would have discovered it. One of its effects is obviously to put a strong pressure on a witness not to change his evidence, even though he may know that he com-

mitted perjury in the original testimony.—Toronto Saturday Night. Freedom of speech is perhaps the most dangerous of all freedoms, for it is not impossible to make vicious and destructive ideas superficially attractive. But if we are free, we must have the courage and the common sense to use dangerous things intelligently. It is easier at first to deny freedom than to accept its responsibilities, but such a denial destroys the mind and will of a democratic nation and at last destroys democracy itself by rendering the nation unfit for freedom. Canada has shown beyond any doubt that her people are fit to be free in the fullest sense—free to sift and select among all teachings and modes of thought.—Peterborough Examiner.

Among the many excellent facilities of the Montreal harbor something is still lacking. Provision should be made for disposal of tank flushing and other waste oil from oil burning vessels. As things stand, this goes into the river to contribute a major share to the pollution which is progressively smothering the St. Lawrence. From it sludge deposits form on the river's bottom, preventing the development of organisms providing food for fishes and purification for the water. And oil deposits are a threat not only to fish, but to waterfowl and furbearing animals as well. In some harbors this condition is handled by barges into which the waste is pumped into a sump—a pit or reservoir which keeps the water from contaminating the water.—Montreal Gazette.

The Poet's Corner

WILD DUCK

Twilight, Red in the West. Dimness. A glow on the wood; The teams plod home to rest. The wild duck comes to glean. O souls not understood, What a wild cry in the pool; What things have the farm ducks seen. That they cry so—huddle and cry? Only the soul that goes Eager. Eager. Flying—Over the globe of the moon, Over the wood that glows, Wings linked, necks astrain, A rush and a wild crying; A cry of the long pain In the reeds of a steel lagoon In a land that no man knows. —John Masfield

Old Charlottetown

(And P. E. I.)

POST OFFICE EXACTION

"The functionary who rules the roost at the Post Office Department in Halifax has recently given orders to Mr. Owen, Postmaster of this place, to exact the same postage upon all papers sent through the hands of the mail carriers, as that which is required to be paid upon papers regularly mailed at the office. Publishers are therefore obliged to pay for papers going to settlements where there exist no Post Offices, and run the risk of having the money refunded by their subscribers. This is certainly a barefaced proceeding on the part of the Deputy Post Master General; and if continued, will create, we trust, such a storm of indignation and contumely as will teach him the folly and fruitlessness of so arbitrary and presumptuous an exaction." —The Palladium, May 2, 1814.

tall parties, or drink tea with lemon, or collect Tschalkowski recordings. As for Gogol, his name is just poison around 154 Jarvis. Most of the CBC folks have already seen Danny Kaye in "The Inspector General"—which is also based on one of Gogol's stories—but those who haven't will be prudent enough to stay away from it. The old lady's still badly shaken, and another fright could be the death of her.

Public Health Administration In P. E. Island Since 1832

From the report of the Provincial Health Planning Commission

The earliest recorded legislation relating to health in Prince Edward Island was in the year 1832, in the reign of William IV. At that time an Act was passed by the Legislature authorizing the erection of an asylum for the insane, and other charities. In the same year an Act was passed to prevent the importation of infectious diseases into the Island, and their spread. An official bearing the title "Health Officer" was appointed at this time. Further legislation, relating chiefly to asylums, was enacted in 1840, 1842 and 1844.

In the year 1851 legislation was enacted constituting boards of health. Provisions were made for the establishing of hospitals, with particular reference to the treatment of infectious diseases. It was required that the health officer of the province should be appointed by the Lieutenant-Governor, and on May 1st, 1851, Dr. W. H. Hobbs was appointed. Little progress was made, however, in implementing the legislation. The occurrence of several small epidemics of smallpox during the following ten years served, however, to arouse public opinion and resulted in the passing of a Vaccination Act in 1862, under the terms of which superintendents of vaccination were to be appointed.

With the entrance of Prince Edward Island into Confederation in 1873 the Federal Government assumed responsibility for maritime quarantine, and for the supervision of sanitation of ships and other common carriers. Quarantine hospitals were built and maintained at Charlottetown and Souris.

The assumption of these responsibilities by the Federal Government, however, did not constitute a stimulus to the organization of public health by the Province, although legislation containing references to matters of health was passed in 1872, 1886 and 1887. In 1896 an Act was passed providing for the education of the deaf and dumb. It was not until 1908 that an Act entitled "The Public Health Act of Prince Edward Island" was passed to provide for a provincial board and to authorize the formation of local boards of health throughout the province.

By this legislation the areas of local boards were related in a general way to the townships. It provided for the appointment of a chief health officer who would serve also as chief superintendent of vaccination. This law remained in force with some amendments, until 1927 when the present and more comprehensive Act came into force.

The present public health organization is in large measure the result of the work of those who have been instrumental for many years in the problem of tuberculosis. It will be recalled that the excellent sanatorium provision throughout Canada has been the result of the early efforts of the Canadian Tuberculosis Association to create public interest and, through private philanthropy, to provide accommodation for the treatment of cases.

The work resulted in the formation of an Anti-Tuberculosis Society in the Province in 1906, under the presidency of Judge Fitzgerald. Almost all the efforts for improvement of public health during the following twenty years can be traced to the work of the public-spirited citizens organized in the Anti-Tuberculosis Society and in various other agencies.

In the following year, under the presidency of Dr. MacLaughlin, branches of the Anti-Tuberculosis Society were formed in the different counties. The increasing interest resulted in the organization of local societies, several of the counties being divided into sections. An effective central organization was maintained. Anti-tuberculosis literature was distributed throughout the province, and lectures were held in many centres. The movement was heartily received by the public, and the foundations were laid for public support of a provincial health program.

In 1908 a Free Dispensary was organized by the Charlottetown branch of the Anti-Tuberculosis Society. Much credit is due to the late Dr. S. R. Jenkins for the valuable assistance and advice which he gave to the organization, and for his subsequent untiring efforts, through the Society and through the Canadian Red Cross Society, to ensure better

health measures for the people of the province. Through the efforts of the Anti-Tuberculosis Society support was obtained for meat and milk inspection by local communities. In Charlottetown recommendations were forwarded to the City Council relating to meat and milk inspection and under the construction of a civic abattoir. Although not immediately successful, public opinion was created which resulted in 1921 in providing meat and milk inspection and the construction of an incineration plant. The need for sanatorium accommodation was also stressed. It was not possible, however, to obtain Government support for the erection of a suitable institution. The movement therefore gained a great impetus when Charles Dalton, who later became Lieutenant-Governor, made possible a generous gift the erection of a sanatorium. The institution was opened in March, 1915, with Dr. Garrison as superintendent. During the Great War the Federal Government used the Dalton Sanatorium and increased its bed capacity several times. At the conclusion of the war the Anti-Tuberculosis Society found itself embarrassed with the large building and in April, 1921, urged the restoration of the building in accordance with the original plans.

Following the war, in accordance with the enlarged commission of the International Red Cross Society as contained in the Treaty of Versailles, the Canadian Red Cross Society, through its provincial branches, offered assistance to the Provincial Government and to national voluntary agencies interested in public health. In December, 1920, following a meeting called by the provincial Red Cross Society, a child welfare section was formed. This marked the introduction of organized child welfare work to the province. Miss Amy McMahon, an overseas army matron and nurse of wide experience in child welfare work, was appointed and commenced a program of public health nursing. This was the beginning of infant, maternal and child welfare work; of the inspection of children in the Charlottetown schools and later in the rural schools; of nurses' visits to the homes; of public lectures; and of the establishing of Junior Red Cross branches in the schools. The need for a Provincial health department, for which legislation had been enacted, was appreciated by those who were cognizant of the health situation. In 1922, and again in 1923, the executives of the Red Cross Society approached the Provincial Government, but without success. Appreciation, however, of the work being conducted by the Society was evidenced by 1924 by the establishment of an annual provincial grant to the Society to carry on its program, which has been financed largely by the voluntary headquarters of the organization.

In 1923 Miss McMahon resigned and was succeeded by Miss Mona Wilson. With demands for increasing service, additional nurses were appointed. School medical and dental services were provided. The sanitary improvement of the school buildings, dental and tonsil clinics were held and clinics for the examination and treatment of crippled children inaugurated. Through the efforts of the Red Cross Society, vaccination against diphtheria and smallpox was conducted and instructions given in home nursing, the care of infants, and in first aid. During this period the Canadian Tuberculosis Association again demonstrated its willingness to assist in meeting the problem of tuberculosis. Although the public were conscious of the very high death rate from tuberculosis and in the earlier years the Anti-Tuberculosis Societies had been highly effective in disseminating knowledge of the disease, no provision had been made by the Government or any agency to make possible the early diagnosis of cases, their hospitalization, or the supervision of contacts. (To be concluded)

YOUTHFUL CHAMPION

ST. ANN'S, N. S.—(CP)—First student to register for the annual Gaelic summer school here was 10-year-old Mable MacInnis of Antigonish, Nova Scotia's juvenile champion in highland dancing.

PROFESSIONAL CARDS

Advertisement for professional services including J. A. Carruthers R.O. Optometrist, Allison M. Gillis, LL.B. Barrister, Solicitor, Dr. A. L. MacIsaac Dentist, Byron J. Grant O.D. Optometrist, H. R. Doane and Company Chartered Accountants, and Johnson & Johnson Prescription Specialists.