

THE GUARDIAN

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"The Strongest Memory is Weaker Than the Weakest Ink."

CHARLOTTETOWN SATURDAY, JULY 8, 1950

Museum For Newfoundland

Newfoundland is getting ahead of Prince Edward Island in establishing a Provincial Museum, which is to be opened in St. John's within the next three or four months. The curator, Mr. Leo F. English, M.B.E., has been visiting Ottawa, Toronto, Montreal, Saint John, N. B. and Halifax for the purpose of acquainting himself with the set-ups of various museums, and obtained much useful information on the subject. The authorities at the National Museum of Ottawa were very helpful and offered every co-operation. Mr. English was particularly impressed with the Saint John, N. B. museum, an institution founded by the late Dr. Clarence Webster and his wife, now functioning as a municipal institution supported by civic funds and local citizens and societies. Its curators give lectures both to school groups and adults, and it also sends out exhibits and educational material to the schools of the Province. The museum at Halifax is divided at present between a small natural scenic exhibition and an historical section at Dalhousie. Plans are under way to reconstruct this museum on modern lines.

Last year in this Province an impetus to the museum movement was given by the splendid exhibition of historic objects held by the I. O. D. E. The large and varied number of exhibits loaned, and the marked public interest taken in the display, proved a surprise even to the promoters. There is no doubt but that a Provincial Museum would fill a long felt need in Prince Edward Island, and that it would be of great educational value as well as an added attraction to our summer visitors.

This movement should not be delayed until some palatial building is available for the purpose. It is something which we should have provided for long ago. Our neglect has meant the loss of many valuable relics of our pioneer past, which have gone to other museums or been taken away by private collectors. Newfoundland's action in this matter, so soon after becoming a Province of Canada, should remind us that we have been wasting much valuable time.

The Women's Institutes

The Women's Institutes have become such an essential part of our Provincial activities educationally, culturally, socially and otherwise that it is difficult to imagine what Prince Edward Island would be without them. Certainly there is no need to worry on that score, as the movement has grown from strength to strength and shows no signs of retrogressing, either in the membership or in the enthusiasm with which the work of the organization is being conducted.

The annual sessions of the Provincial Institute, which open on Monday, will be attended by Mrs. Morton, of Alberta, president of the Federated Women's Institute of Canada, and a programme of special interest has been arranged. The various committee reports will deal with such diverse subjects as agriculture, home economics, citizenship, social welfare, drama and music festivals, arts and handicraft, and the reports and discussions will be followed with general interest.

With two delegates from each of the Provincial branches, over 500 delegates in all will attend the convention, making this one of the most representative gatherings to be held in any part of Canada.

Distinguished Visitors

The members of the British Agricultural Mission now touring Canada will arrive in Prince Edward Island tomorrow morning on a two days' visit, during which they will have an opportunity of seeing something at first hand of our farming activities. Headed by Sir William Ogg, director of the Rothamstead Experimental Station in England—the largest station of its type in the world—the Mission comprises some of Britain's leading agricultural scientists. They will have much of interest to discuss with our own agricultural leaders, and there is no question but that their visit will be of mutual value. Incidentally, it should result in a great deal of publicity for this Province in the Old Country, for we have no doubt as to the favorable impression which the visitors will receive.

Too frequently in the past, the Maritimes have been ignored in important tours of this kind. On this occasion the visit is

being sponsored by the Dominion Department of Agriculture and every opportunity is being given of seeing the country from coast to coast. In no part of Canada will the visitors be assured of a warmer welcome, and the only regret will be that they cannot spend a longer period with us.

Christendom

Christianity has had a long history of schism and reunion with the former playing an all too striking role. It used to be possible to speak of Christendom as a very real concept. The Great Schism of 1054 when the Eastern and Western church went their several ways ended that as an existing state of affairs and the many great and lesser divisions which have since taken place have given the Christian Church the semblance of utter disunity rather than the indivisibility which all branches claim for it.

One of the great factors working for united action as well as spiritual union is the World Council of Churches, of which the annual meeting of the policy-making central committee is for the next week meeting in Toronto. The World Council was formed at Amsterdam in 1948 and will hold its second assembly in the United States in 1953.

Almost all Christian denominations, Eastern and Western are represented on the Council with the notable exception of Roman Catholicism and it, although not a member, has observers at assembly meetings. The aims of the World Council must have the sympathy of all Christians everywhere, whether or not they can approve of its method of approach.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Tomorrow, 5th Sunday after Trinity.

Training begins today at Pictou for the 28th Light A. A. Regiment, R.C.A. The Islanders have an outstanding record of artillery efficiency to live up to.

The Calgary Stampede begins today. When it is over there will commence the stampede of Maritimers eastbound on the "Spud Island Special."

Mr. W. F. Turgeon, who has been dividing his time between the positions of chairman of the Royal Commission on Transportation and High Commissioner in Dublin, has been now made Canadian Ambassador to the Republic of Ireland—a full time job.

Two O'Leary business men have the credit for changing the time-honoured order of things. Mainland firms have long been in the habit of opening branches here. Now Messrs. Ozon and Matthews have opened a branch of their dry goods and footwear business in Nova Scotia.

Chicago Blue Cross rates are being increased chiefly because members are using hospital facilities in greater volume than ever before. It is one of the dangers of any pre-paid scheme that participants will be inclined to make a greater than normal use of hospitalization in order to "get value for their money". The result, of course, is higher costs for all.

Mr. Hormisdas Langlais, member of the Quebec Legislature for the Magdalen Islands, reports the situation of fishermen in the St. Lawrence gulf islands is precarious this year due to devaluation of the pound sterling, a poor season of mackerel fishing, and low prices of competing Newfoundland and Scandinavian fish. Mr. Langlais said devaluation of the pound operates to the disadvantage of Magdalen Island fishermen by permitting Scandinavian fishermen to undersell them by some 30 per cent on the British market. The Legislature member said the price Magdalen Island fishermen get for their cod has fallen from four cents a pound in 1946 to two cents this year and their catch has fallen from 18,000 barrels to about 2,000 this year.

Joseph Chamberlain, British statesman, born this date 1836. A successful Birmingham business man, he was repeatedly returned as Mayor on a social reform programme. He was subsequently elected M.P. and with Jos. Collins, inaugurated a social reform programme for the country at large, their slogan being "3 acres and a cow" for every family. Subsequently he split with Gladstone over his Home Rule for Ireland policy, and joined with the Conservatives in creating the Liberal-Unionist Party. Later he collaborated with Balfour in forming a Conservative Government, and inaugurated his Imperial Free Trade policy. When Mr. Balfour refused to make this one of his planks in the Party's political platform, Chamberlain withdrew and started, as Punch indicated, "ploughing his own long lonely furrow". He visited Canada and other parts of the Empire, and received heartening vocal support for his policy, but nothing practical ensued; instead the Statute of Westminster was adopted which tended to separate rather than combine the Empire along the lines Chamberlain visioned.

Popular Request



Old Charlottetown

(And P. E. I.)

CHARLOTTETOWN COMMON

Under Lieutenant Governor Fanning (1786-1805) and apparently without any legislative sanction, the Common of Charlottetown was laid off into thirty-six blocks of land, containing twelve acres each, which were granted away on certain conditions. The legality of these transactions was challenged when the City became incorporated in 1855. The grantees' names and lot numbers are thus given in a report prepared in that year by a special committee for the City Council: 1. Joseph Robinson; 2. John Robins, Alex Fletcher; 3. Alex Gordon; 4. James Campbell; 5. Donald McPhee; 6. Col. Theophilus DesBrisay; 7. Alex Rind; 8. Samuel Bagnall; 9. William Hazard; 10. White and W. Bowley; 11. Benjamin Chappell; 12. James Robertson; 13. Walter Berry; 14. James Douglas; 15. (granted by Lieut. Governor DesBarres) William Townshend; 16. Charles Stewart; 17. James Colledge; 18. Hon. John Patterson; 19. Robert Gray; 20. George Burns; 21. Col. Theophilus DesBrisay; 22. Walter Patterson; Peter McGowan; 23. Hon. John Patterson; 24. John and Thomas Webster; 25. John Cambridge; 27. David Ross; 28. Maj. Charles Lyons; 29. Hon. Peter Stewart, Chief Justice; 30. John Brecken; 31. Robert Hodgson and R. Brecken; 32. W. H. Perry; 34. Thos. Wright; 35. Alex MacMillan, Francis Longworth.

After searching the records, the committee reported that the grantees of Lots Nos. 1, 2, 5, 7, 15, 17, 19, 20, 24 and 30 had apparently complied with one of the conditions of the grants, namely that of registration within six months from the date of the grant, and that the following Lots were not registered until after that period: 3, 4, 11, 12, 13, 16, 24, 27, 31 and 34, failing to perform which condition a forfeiture of the grant was the penalty; that Lots Nos. 6, 8, 9, 10, 18, 21, 23, 26, 28, 29, 32 and 35 had never been registered, and that the dates of 22 remained blank, also that Lots 25 and 33 had never been granted. "It appears to your committee," says the report which is signed by Benjamin Davies, chairman, Artemas G. Sims and Donald McClellan, "that the Legislature did not at any time yield up the right they possessed as guardians and protectors of the Common of Charlottetown. They observe, however, that they exercised their authority over it, for in the year 1780, being the 20th in the reign of George III, a bill was added to the statutes of the Island, sanctioning the leasing of a certain part of the Common, rent free, for the space of ten years. "Your committee are of opinion that the Legislature of that day were induced to grant permission to lease the Common, with the precautionary view against fire, which might arise thereon to the Town, as at that early period the Common and suburbs were in a wilderness state, being covered with brushwood and forest trees. There cannot be a doubt but that the intention of leasing the Common was that this combustible matter should be removed. In this opinion your committee feel themselves confirmed, as they find the Act for leasing the Common was repealed in 1809, the 49th year of George III, forty years ago, a time when the incumbrances were removed, the desired effect of the Act having been accomplished."

The committee noted that on the original plan of the Town and Common, the Common was reserved for extending the Town, when

The Age-Old Story

The hand of the diligent shall rule; but the slothful shall be under tribute. The substance of a diligent man is precious. He that tilleth his land shall be satisfied with bread.

circumstances warranted the enlargement, that the Government Farm containing 100 acres was part thereof, and that no authority existed to grant it away without an Act of Parliament to that effect. The committee thought the facts enumerated "were sufficiently strong to prove to the City or any other authorities that the occupants of the Common have held possession thereof only by the sufferance of the Colonial Governments; that the grants, under plea of which they claim the Common, are grants of Pasture Lots in the Royal, and that it is notorious, Lieut. Governor Fanning and his Council participated largely in the spoliation; under these circumstances, it ceases to be a matter of wonder, the thing has been kept quiet and that the matter has been hushed up from the public so long."

They advised that notices be issued cautioning all persons against trafficking in land or erecting any buildings or fixtures within the Common, without special license from the Mayor, "as they feel satisfied that the right of the Town to the Common will sooner or later prevail against all transgressors." The committee's optimism on this point proved unjustified. Many years later, Dr. D. C. Harvey in an article on Charlottetown wrote as follows: "It was the obsequious and pettifogging Lieutenant-Governor Fanning who commenced tampering with the Charlottetown Common, establishing the precedent by which the Common was ultimately lost to the citizens of Charlottetown. First it was agreed that to lease the Common for a period of years would be in the interest of the Province. Then it was gradually appropriated, bit by bit, until now it has passed into private hands and is indistinguishable from the rest of the city, except by the angle in the streets that start from Euston northward."

OTTAWA, July 5 — (CP) — Thieves forced a wall safe in the downtown offices of DesRoches Motor Sales Limited during the night and escaped with between \$2,000 and \$3,000.

The Poet's Corner

THE SUMMONS

Deep of the wind-torn west, Flaming and desolate, Uprising my soul from his rest With your banners at the gate. 'Neath this o'ermastering sky How could the heart lie still, Or the sluggish will Content in the old chains lie. When over the lonely hill Your torn wild scarlets cry? Up, Soul, and out Into the deeps alone. To the long peal and the shout Of those trumpets blown and blown.

—Sir Chas. G. D. Roberts.

Railway Wage Dispute

(Ottawa Citizen)

Although a strike vote favoring a work stoppage has now been taken by the Canadian Brotherhood of Railway Employees and the Canadian Brotherhood of Express Employees, no efforts to reconcile the dispute have been made by management or labor. A strike vote is also being taken by 15 international unions in the non-operating trades. The ballots on this vote are returnable July 25. If a reconciliation is not reached before that date, and if this vote, too, favors a strike, the country will be faced with the grave possibility of a transportation tie-up. Thus far, the two parties to the dispute have held each other at arm's length, showing no willingness to bargain. The unions may be waiting for all the strike ballots to come in, to give them a weapon of great force. Management may be waiting to see how the employees vote, before deciding to re-open negotiations. But if a strike deadline is set after a vote favoring a stoppage, the industry will drift toward a crisis. Before the total results of the strike ballots are known, a move toward conciliation should be made. The federal Department of Labor might help by inviting the two parties to meet before an emergency atmosphere develops.

The gap between what the unions want and what management will concede does not seem un-

Notes By The Way - Up in Scotland the other day a Canadian wanted a traveling bag. The price was steep and the merchant was asked if the overseas visitor couldn't get this minus the heavy purchase tax. He could, said the store-keeper in Aberdeen, but it would mean filling in a great batch of forms, sending these to London and waiting weeks for a refund. For his part he wasn't interested. He would rather go broke than bother. To the bureau-bridgeable. The employees, now paid on the basis of a 48-hour week, are asking for a 40-hour week and increases in hourly wages that would raise their weekly take-home income by \$2.80 a week for international union members and \$4 a week for members of Canadian unions. A conciliation board recommended a 44-hour week, with an hourly wage increase of 6.83 percent. This would mean a weekly wage slightly below that earned during a 48-hour week for a majority of employees. The railway managements accepted the recommendation, but the unions did not. Yet there seems ground here for compromise. If the employees were to receive the same take-home pay for 44 hours as for 48, not all their demands would be met. But a positive improvement in living standards would result, for the great bulk of employees who are now working 48 hours a week. This plan would therefore represent a compromise for both management and labor. But only further negotiation can achieve anything. Nothing will be accomplished by the present stand pat attitude.

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