

THE GUARDIAN

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Thanksgiving

Thanksgiving is a harvest festival and comes when people are being made aware of the approach of winter. We are thankful for the bounty of nature, looking upon it as a means by which Divine Providence enables us to prepare for the storms that lie ahead. From far back in history man has taken time to give thanks that "all is safely gathered in", that he has been permitted to prepare for the long months that lie ahead.

In Canada we have modelled our Thanksgiving Day after that of our American neighbours, varying the date of its celebration in accordance with the earlier approach of winter in much of this northern land. In the Maritimes, of course, we could very well wait and celebrate it simultaneously with the successors of the Plymouth pioneers.

In truth we have great reason for thanksgiving. In this part of the world we go our way almost untouched by the terrible aftermath of the past war and the strains and stresses of the conflict between the Kremlin and its neighbours. We are blessed with a measure of prosperity. If it sometimes seems that people of an earlier generation were better off it is almost certainly because we have so greatly expanded the number of things which we consider essential.

For all his speed of living and readiness to wage war man now lives longer and enjoys better health than ever before. Leisure, which was once the prerogative of the few, has become the right of all. Slowly we are facing up to the challenge of what to do with that leisure. There are signs that the great lead which has been attained in man's physical mastery of his environment may in due course be matched by spiritual and moral advances.

King's Memorial Fund

A charitable foundation is to be established to the memory of King George VI, and the announcement of the National Memorial Fund has been made by Prime Minister Churchill. Postal authorities in Britain have decreed that donations in that country to the memorial fund can be sent free of postage—an example that might be followed by the post office in Canada. There will doubtless be hundreds of Canadians having a desire to make a contribution and it would be possible for Canadian donations to be handled through the secretary of state at Ottawa.

In his announcement, the British Prime Minister spoke of the qualities of the late King as "courage, devotion to duty, human sympathy and understanding which made him not only honored but beloved," and said that it would have pleased him to see that a memorial fund should be used to help "those who have sustained the nation with their life's work and are drawing near their journey's end."

Educational Review

An interesting review of developments in education in Canada during the period September 1950 to June 1952 is given in the current issue of "Canadian Education," organ of the Canadian Education Association. At both the provincial and local levels, it is noted, education costs have continued to rise sharply. Major contributory factors included the continued rise in the cost of school construction and equipment—approximately \$140,000,000 was spent for this purpose in 1951—the growth of the school population, and substantial increases in the salaries of teachers.

Special steps to relieve the financial burden upon local authorities have been taken in several Provinces. In Alberta, legislation in 1951 provided for an increase of capital assistance in school building. 30 per cent of the approved borrowing or expenditure may now be advanced to school boards, 20 per cent as a cash grant and 10 per cent as an interest-free loan to be repaid over ten years. In addition, by agreement between the provincial and Dominion governments, a twelve million dollar school lands trust fund has been made available for the purchase of school debentures.

In Saskatchewan, a decision to devote to school grants the entire proceeds of the public revenue tax, formerly used for general government revenue, made an additional \$1,600,000 available for this purpose during the present year. In Manitoba, the

grant structure is based upon the equalization principle, a fixed sum per authorized teacher being guaranteed jointly by the Province and by the municipality in which the school district is located. In New Brunswick, by a government decision in 1951 an annual sum of approximately one and one-half million dollars derived from the provincial sales tax has been made available to local school boards as a special grant-in-aid of education.

In connection with school building improvements, it is noted that in Prince Edward Island last year 13 districts provided new buildings or additional rooms with the assistance of government grants. Reference is also made to work having begun on a complete revision of the programme of studies in this Province, special attention being given to the unification of the two senior high school courses, with the aim of establishing a uniform 12-grade matriculation course for the Province. Noted also is the fact that at the 1952 session of the P. E. I. Legislature provision was made for an increase in teachers' salaries, amounting on an average to about \$150 per teacher.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Monday, Thanksgiving.

Tomorrow, 18th Sunday after Trinity.

Today Field Marshal Earl Alexander will unveil a memorial at Mons to the British and Canadian troops who fought the first and last battles of the First World War at that Belgian town.

Prime Minister St. Laurent is to be made over it seems. At least his wax replica in Madame Toussaud's is to be melted down and replaced with a new model to be constructed by artists working from a new set of photographs.

Canada's tenth annual National Immunization Week begins tomorrow. Many groups and individuals are working to end the toll from preventable diseases — diphtheria, smallpox, lockjaw, and whooping cough.

The Battle of Camperdown was fought this date 1797. The British fleet under Admiral Duncan, later Lord Duncan of Camperdown, defeated a Dutch fleet under De Winter slightly inferior in strength. Duncan captured eleven ships in the battle off the Dutch coast and the Royal Navy was felt to have wiped out the disgrace of the mutiny of the Nore.

A correspondent, very properly taking the Government and individuals to task for waste, hit upon an inappropriate example, that of naval practice gunfire. It would be the opposite of economy to provide ships and shore establishments for the purpose of placing guns where we want them only to find that the gun's crews were less than perfectly trained with their weapons.

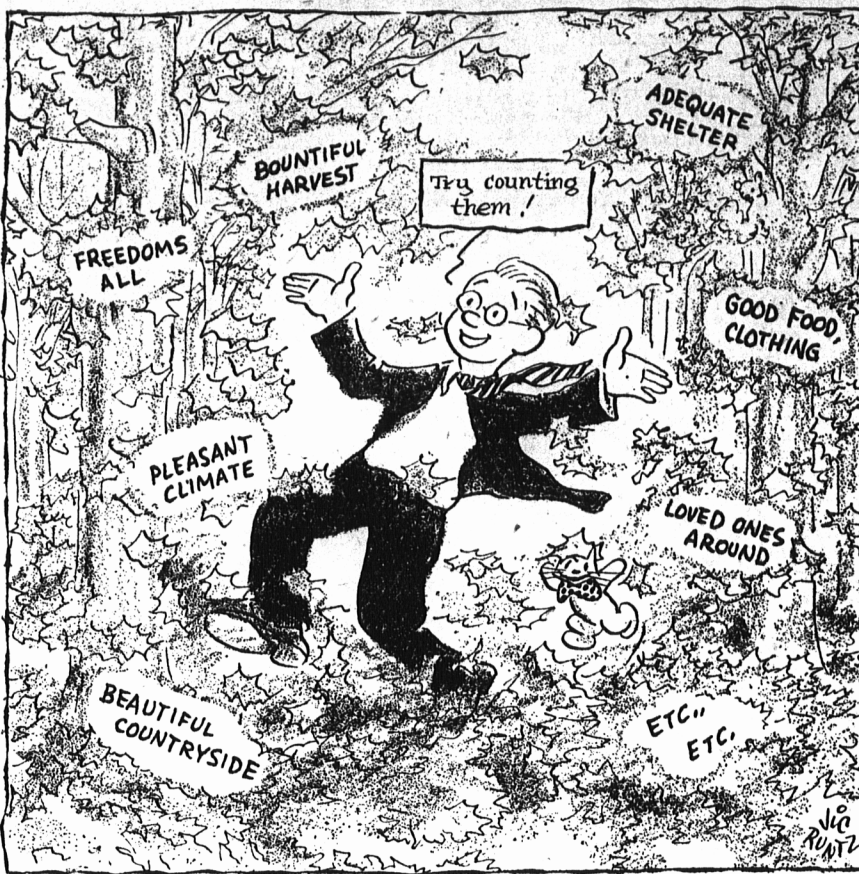
The Chicago Tribune says that Brig. Alan B. Connelly was "fired from the army for letting Canadian troops help American soldiers guard the prisoner-of-war camp" at Kojé Island last spring. If it were from any paper but that of "Col." McCormick such a report would require investigation. Even from such a source it should receive at least official comment.

Wild oats and persistent perennial weeds will highlight discussions at the International Weed Conference slated for Winnipeg, December 8 to 11. Preparations for the conference are well under way, according to chairman H. E. Wood, Manitoba Weeds Commissioner and president of the Western Canadian Weed Control Conference. Reservations have been received from 14 states and five provinces.

Low grade and light weight cattle are to benefit by price support. The move may well save the government money. If the price of only top quality beef had been supported, there would certainly have been a tendency for the buying public to turn to the low grades. Now the low grades purchased by the Government can always be disposed of for sausage meat and so forth. More top quality meat will go into immediate consumption.

Six Shackletons, maritime-reconnaissance aircraft of No. 269 Squadron, R.A.F. Coastal Command, reached Greenwood, N. S., Oct. 3. The visit is in exchange for that made by No. 404 Squadron of the R. C. A. F. to Britain in June for Exercise "Castenets." In this country the Shackletons will take part in exercise "Emigrant", planned by the Supreme Allied Command, Atlantic, to take advantage of the disposition of forces returning from the recent exercise "Mainbrace". No. 269 Squadron is commanded by Sq. Ldr. E. Pennington, A.F.C., and will operate in "Emigrant" under the operational and administrative control of the R. C. A. F. Maritime Group.

Many Blessings



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.

CREDIT WHERE DUE

Sir, — I read with a great deal of interest the article on the Anglican Church at Cranford, but would like to point out one error, i.e. the name of the architect of the present church building, who was the late William Critchlow Harris. I write this not to find fault with a very admirable article, but just to keep history straight, as facts get confused as the years go by.

May I add another comment, in the article on the P. E. I. Hospital, I think the names of the late Mr. James Paton and the late Mr. W. F. Tidmarsh should be included with those mentioned, as they were all working together as a splendid group to put over the new building. I do not mean to detract from many others, who took great interest, but these four were the main leaders, apart from the doctors.

I am, Sir, etc., JAS. E. HARRIS, Charlottetown.

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 Masefield.

Old Charlottetown

(And P. E. I.)

CONFUSING SIGNALS

"It will puzzle many of us to discover the object of hoisting ship signals on the Provincial Building during the winter months. On Saturday a signal was hoisted which denotes that 'the vessel has lost her captain and wants a pilot.' Today a signal for an approaching mail steamer is floating in the breeze, and tomorrow we will not be surprised to see this signal farce carried out by hoisting a flag of distress. Is it possible some of the employees about the building are playing practical jokes on the 'assembled wisdom'?"

—The Examiner, March 7, 1881. (This method of signalling as a means of informing citizens of the approach of a vessel from sea was employed originally at St. George's Battery, on the Esplanade. When the Battery site was sold in 1864 the system was transferred to the Colonial (Legislative) Building, where a flagstaff with cross-arms was erected for the purpose, and where it was continued for many years. Certainly it could not have been of any use during the winter months, when the harbour was frozen over; and The Examiner's surmise that a Jokester was responsible is probably correct.)

SPECIAL KIND

The unique type of double coconut known as coco de mer is found on the Seychelles Islands in the Indian Ocean.

Notes By The Way

We find a singular charm in these advertisements showing how meat prices have declined in the year—a pound of bacon 46 cents instead of 84; chuck roast 45 instead of 73 and cross rib roast 69 cents instead of 89. The charm is a little shaken when we consider that the farmer receiving less for his animals is still paying the big prices for other commodities like the rest of us. —Ottawa Journal.

Most people think of spring as the seeding time. And, for most crops, it is. In Ontario, however, there also is an autumn seeding, of fall wheat and rye. If Western Canada, with its hard spring wheat, is one of the great bread-baskets of the world, Ontario can be regarded as the pastry-pan of the nation. Most of the soft wheat is grown in this province, and much of it is sown in the autumn, and it is the flour from soft wheat which is best for pastries. Apart from their yield of grain, fall wheat and rye serve other purposes. As they can be sown in the autumn, they lessen the rush of spring seeding. Also, they are good conservation crops. An inch or so high when the snows come they hold the soil together the autumn and again during the runoff when the snows melt in the spring. —Windsor Star.

According to one school of modern folklore, America is the land of all that is novel, original and progressive in the way of business enterprise. Another, less reliable, has it that every important device from the submarine to the telephone was invented by a Russian. But wait till they both hear about Vienna. In Vienna the telephones are operated by the Austrian post office. And in that ancient capital of the Hapsburgs one may dial a selected number for a recorded report of the skiing conditions, as your American telephone subscriber does for the weather forecast. Or where a patient New York voice says "The correct time now is 5:37 1-2." Vienna's dialing system will provide bus and train schedules, football results, or a recipe for dinner. To all this now is to be added (on September 1) a number from which a nonplussed parent can obtain a recorded bed-time fairy tale for children. But the service distinctly Viennese—which proves that after two wars Vienna is still the city of Mozart and Strauss. —Christian Science Monitor.

A Cup Of Tea

A good cup of tea may seem to be a matter of small importance when its value is measured against the background of our chaotic and troubled world. But tea's beneficent fumes have penetrated deeply into Great Britain's spirit of life. It insulates the spirits of her people from the damp and chilly air which occasionally shrouds their island. It provides a lift or a balm as the occasion requires. Its gentle aroma has become the very essence of British hospitality.

In 1940, a year in which its sustaining qualities must have been doubly appreciated, tea was rationed. The British people, who had been drinking tea on an average of four or five times a day, were forced to get along with what they could brew from two ounces a week. They got along very well; they had other and more grievous sacrifices and hardships with which to contend and they were in no mood to bewail a loss so relatively trifling as a cup of tea. But trifles can be more irritating than calamities; and that the tea-pot, around which the social and in some measure the intellectual life of Britain had revolved for centuries, should become another symbol of austerity, must have been a bitter up to swallow.

But that is all over now. On October 2 Prime Minister Churchill's government made one of the most welcomed announcements of its year-old existence: tea rationing is at an end. From now on, whatever other problems (and they will no doubt be many and grave) may occupy the minds of Britain's people, they will at least have the satisfaction of knowing that they need no longer think twice, or count coupons, before brewing themselves "the cup" that cheer but not inebriate.

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The Public Forum

WHAT FIRE HAZARDS MEAN

Sir,—Fire Prevention Week is almost over for another year and although we make it an annual affair only a few people take the matter of "fire hazards" seriously. Most people pass it off, saying the famous last words: "It couldn't happen to me." Others like the phrase "I'm well insured—let 'er burn." Both these types are an increasing menace because regardless of insurance coverage, fire destroys irreplaceable property and endangers others who may not be so fortunate. In these days of high cost of materials, defense demands etc., we should look at our very little and take stock of what can be done to aid in fire prevention. I would like to break my subject into two parts: (1) the farm property (2) the city property.

Along with the normal fire hazard that are found on a farm we have another condition to cope with. First, farms do not have first class fire fighting equipment near at hand and secondly farm buildings are usually built near the house in a hollow square for convenience. About the first very little that can be done to cope with fire is to have a water supply located in the burning building and no other source of supply is available. An unlimited supply of that cheap commodity, water, is most useful and should be easily available on all farms.

About the latter all that can be done is to try to encourage agriculturists who plan new farms or the improvement of old ones to disperse their buildings around their property as aircraft were during the war so that one flash fire or explosion will not wipe everything out in one stroke. There is no need in this modern day and age in having the back door of the house adjacent to the cow barn or pig sty just to save a few steps. This small conservation of energy is a dubious, dearly bought luxury in case of a bad fire with the wind the wrong way. Many there are who can testify to the heart rending sight of their home and business going up in flames to say nothing of the live stock which is invariably lost.

Those living near enough to a town or city and who have access to a well equipped fire department must remember that a vehicle carries only a limited supply of water which, if it cannot be replenished, is only effective for a short time. Too often a City fire department have arrived on the scene of a fire to find no water supply. Then too, the city folks who are paying taxes to buy and maintain these costly machines take a very dim view of seeing their men and equipment called away in case there should be a serious fire at home.

One of the greatest hazards of fire on the farm is adequate insurance which is cheap and readily available. Although it will not prevent fires it turns a would-be disaster into an unfortunate accident. Farming today is a business and much costly machinery and equipment should be insured as well as the farm house, outbuildings and stock. Electricity, although it has been a boon to agriculture, is dangerous if per logical checks are not made and faulty wiring and equipment replaced. Then too, as the Fire Marshal has on so many occasions stressed, every farm should be equipped with some modern fire fighting equipment and authorized extinguishers.

As for City property, let's call the city "Charlottetown", and face the facts. Our city is expanding yearly, and it won't be long until the Fire Department will have to be responsible for a much greater area than they now cover. The equipment to do this is limited, trained firemen are few, and there

are too many old buildings and blocks of buildings in Charlottetown that are firetraps. I know it has all been said before, and it will probably be said again, after more people are homeless, and in some cases, bereft of loved ones. I have been in buildings where cellars are piled high with discarded cartons, rubbish, and paper; where bare and overloaded electric wires are in evidence, and I have been in buildings that are structurally unsafe. Pity anyone who attempts to control a fire in a rattrap such as this. I have been in private homes where the floor is full of rubbish, and flammable refuse, and where hot ashes are dumped onto an open ash pile within combustible range of the refuse. I have been in buildings where the insulation between floors and walls has consisted of common wood shavings. I have been in cellars which house oil-fired furnaces with no master switch in evidence except right above the furnace.

We had a major fire a few years back which was greatly celebrated by a call for electric light bulbs. The rubbish not only gave the fire a good start, but kept burning throughout the destruction of the remainder of the building. Another major fire was caused last year by the explosion of an unguarded electric light bulb. The coupled with the fact that three garages were allowed to operate back to back with no fire wall between them, resulted in a major fire which wiped out and damaged other properties as it roared along. There are other such blocks in this city, (not necessarily all in three garages) that are similar fire hazards, having few, if any, brick walls which might act as a fire break.

In many parts of our crowded city, you have only to go into any backyard to see evidence of fire hazards that might cause or lead to a disastrous fire. What can be done? I say the question is—what MUST be done? We must legislate, if necessary, to correct the conditions found in many homes and places of business, and enforce the law. Cellars, attics, garages, warehouses, etc. etc. etc. should have periodic checking. We fine and jail people who endanger the lives of others by reckless and drunken driving, but do we ever think how great a hazard fire is? Fire can consume lives and property very easily, and what about the buildings close at hand which you might say are innocent bystanders? The crime of neglect or of knowingly harboring a fire hazard, is a serious one, and I think worthy of consideration and prompt attention. In our own City add up all the littered cellars, the faulty wiring, the faulty flues and chimneys, the unattended oilstoves, the unrepaired furnaces, and the structurally unsafe frame buildings. To these hazards add a half-dozen alleged fire bugs, and top it all off with a good dash of human error. There you have a recipe for a disaster in the making. On the other side stands an efficient but limited voluntary Fire Department. On the shoulders of some fifty volunteers lies the burden of preventing a crippling conflagration. These men can do only so much with the equipment now on hand, and have so far turned in a better-than-average record of promptness and efficiency. We can all help by inspecting our own premises and by practising the fire prevention rules and regulations laid down by our Provincial Fire Marshal. Everyone likes to watch a fire unless it happens to be their own home that is burning. I am, Sir, etc., I. WITNESS Charlottetown.

STRATEGIC BASTION The island of Malta in the Mediterranean is 58 miles from Sicily and 180 miles from Africa.

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