

THE GUARDIAN

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CIRCULATION "Covers Prince Edward Island like the dew"

"The strongest memory is weaker than the weakest ink"

CHARLOTTETOWN, THURSDAY, MAR. 25, 1954

Wood Islands Ferry

The Hon. Keir Clark and Hon. B. Earle MacDonald spoke for a great many Islanders when they stoutly protested against the Legislature being asked in effect to tell the Department of Transport that this Province does not want the Federal Government to provide a better service between Kings County and Nova Scotia.

The resolution itself has little to commend it. Its passage would not bring a dollar more in the way of subsidy for the present service and might indeed have the opposite effect.

Nothing could be further from the minds of the mover and seconder but its passage by the House would certainly be open to that interpretation.

In the matter of the ferry service it is necessary to keep an open mind as to the method of operation. We cannot afford to summarily reject any plan by which an improved service might be made available.

A Wise Decision

The Legislative Committee on Education is to be commended for throwing yesterday's meeting open to the public, and it is to be hoped that this course will be followed consistently from now on.

We note that the chairman of the committee states that there was no secrecy with regard to its previous meetings, to which attention was called in these columns yesterday, and that the Press was negligent in not reporting them if it thought them to be of sufficient public interest.

We are not concerned with chopping straws over the responsibility for past procedure, since the committee now disclaims any intention of acting as a court of secret inquiry. It may well have misjudged the public interest attaching to its proceedings, and needed only yesterday's admonition to see the matter in a clearer light.

A Little Hope

Ever since Georgi M. Malenkov assumed the mantle of Russian leadership there has been much speculation in foreign countries—perhaps in Russia as well—on whether or not he would turn out to be more co-operative than was the late Premier Stalin in his relations with the West.

of an election would seem to indicate that whether his intentions be peaceful or otherwise his views on the eventual outcome of another world war are much more realistic than were those of his predecessor.

Stalin's constant theme was that the next war would see the utter destruction of Capitalism and the complete triumph of world Communism. Malenkov is taking a different view; his pre-election statement was to the effect that a new war would seriously endanger all civilization and perhaps destroy it outright.

There is, of course, no way of telling whether Premier Malenkov's realistic thinking in this respect will result in a more sensible Russian approach to world problems. For one thing it is not generally believed that he would have the final say in any issue on which peace or war might depend; for another, there is no historical justification for the assumption that the Communist plan for world conquest will be scrapped as a result of sane consideration of the calamitous possibilities involved.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Annunciation, Lady Day.

The debate today in the House of Commons is expected to clarify Canada's position on the conference at Geneva April 26 on the Korean war. It is unlikely that any hard and fast decisions will be taken except to stand firmly behind common policies which may be agreed upon with other members of the United Nations.

Canadians usually take the pessimistic view of drama that amateurs lack the example and inspiration which would come from the existence of professional theatre. Adjudicator Graham Suter looks at the situation more optimistically, taking the view that community drama groups in this country have a unique opportunity because of the lack of competition from the professional stage.

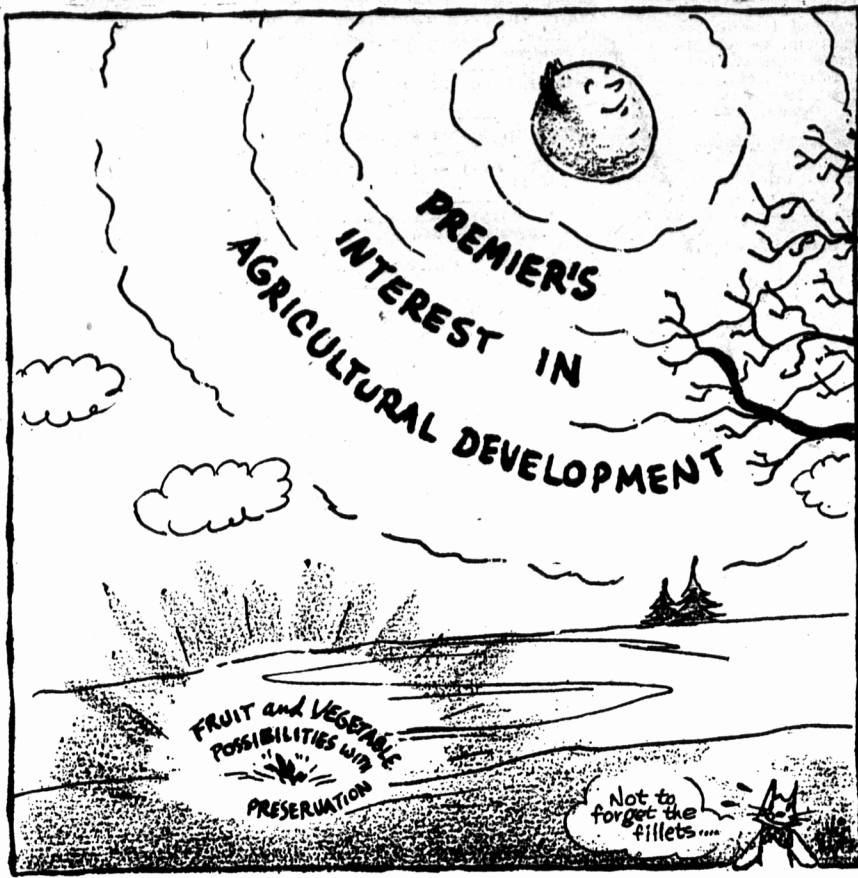
Greek Independence Day, 1821. In 1460 the peninsula had been subjugated by the Turks and had remained under their control despite efforts by the Venetians and by the Russians. In the early nineteenth century the educated classes of Europe, nurtured in the glory of Greece, were increasingly sympathetic to her national aspirations.

"Zoonoses" are not snouts but the 80 odd diseases that can be transmitted by animals to man in the language of a report issued by the World Health Organization. "The prevention and eradication of Zoonoses in human beings can be accomplished in large measure by control of these diseases in animals," according to WHO.

Even although there is no intention to employ germ warfare, it is necessary to study and understand its implications. The United Kingdom Ministry of Supply states that: "During and since the war successive Governments have had to consider methods of defence against all possible forms of attack, including even such forms as biological warfare which are expressly forbidden by the rules of war."

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Spring Thoughts



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.

DAYLIGHT TIME FOR P. E. I.

Sir.—We have twenty-four hours of daily time. Ever since and before the time of Alfred the Great, when a graduated candle instead of a mechanical clock served as a timepiece, time was regulated according to the sun. Why should we now try to fool ourselves by setting our clocks ahead and pretending that we are an hour ahead of the sun which is the natural guide for time.

The only persons to benefit by this change are city workers and business men, who are in the minority in this Province. If these people wish to start an hour earlier and quit an hour earlier, why do they not do so without disrupting the affairs of farmers and fishermen who are in the majority. Does any farmer or fisherman benefit by daylight saving time? Is it in agreement with the democratic principles for the masses of the people to be controlled by the few?

If daylight was complete and absolute all over the province, and passed as a government measure, it might be entirely different. In my opinion, we in the small towns appreciate the business derived from the rural districts, and should try to show our tolerance, rather than demonstrate our arrogance by making daylight time compulsory. No time is actually gained by this system. We shall never have any more time. We have and always have had all the time there is. We on P. E. I. were, in the past, always able to manage our lives and affairs on standard time, and it is my opinion that daylight saving time proved unsatisfactory to the majority of the people of this Province when it was used several years ago.

The present Government is to be commended on the stand it has taken on this matter in not making daylight time mandatory in the Province.

I am, Sir, etc. BRUCE H. YEO

CANNED LOBSTER PRICES

Sir.—The lobster industry is undoubtedly a very important one to you and I. It is about this subject that we are writing. We are food brokers calling on all of the chains, wholesale grocers and supermarkets in the New England area and over the past years, we have sold many cases of your canned lobster.

Unfortunately, however, your people apparently have the false notion that the American consumer can afford to pay anything that is asked of them when the canned lobster hits the retail shelf. Nothing could be further from the truth because we have seen the sale of lobster dwindle to a very small quantity compared to what could be sold to the consumer when lobster is priced at a reasonable level.

The situation is getting to the point that lobster is no longer of any interest to the average family and is becoming such a luxury that sales have fallen off very badly. We are now on the eve of a new packing season which will begin May 1st, and we thought it apropos to call to the attention of your readers through your columns the situation which they face, as far as the New England export market is concerned.

Let anyone harbor any notion, the American consumer and particularly in New England can pay exorbitant prices, let them study the effect of high retail prices of coffee which are currently being asked of our customers. This product has slowed down by over 50 per cent, despite the fact that this is a universal coffee area. It proves that the consumer will turn away from an item she con-

Notes By The Way

Manufacturers are seeking a new name for a girde, claiming most women find the term distasteful. The primary purpose of the article will, however, remain the same no doubt, namely, to keep a bad situation from spreading. —Toronto Star.

"Men still die with their boots on — one boot on the accelerator." —Woodstock Sentinel-Review

Old Charlottetown

(And P. E. I.)

CENTRAL ACADEMY CLASSES

"The half-yearly examination of the classes of the Central Academy was held on Friday last, in the larger of the school rooms belonging to that institution. His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor and Lady Mary Fitzroy attended, together with the trustees, and a number of the parents, guardians and friends of the pupils.

The boys about fifty in number, underwent examinations in the Greek and Latin classics, geography, history, mechanics, mathematics, grammar, common and mental arithmetic, and reading, and the result was highly creditable both to scholars and masters.

"It was very gratifying to observe the interest which both Sir Charles and Lady Mary took in the exhibition. Sir Charles seems to think, and very properly, that his office of Patron and Visitor is not merely honorary, but that, to use his own words, 'one of the most important duties of the situation in which he is placed is to promote the education of the people.' Wisely considering no doubt that the acquisition of useful and rational knowledge is the best guarantee of their future usefulness as members of society, and of insuring a due regard for those moral and social duties, without the observance of which no community can be either safe, respectable, or happy."

—Royal Gazette, July 18, 1887.

Consider to be too high or too expensive for her purse. By the same token, consumers are turning away from canned lobster and it seems to us that the fishermen or others who pay for the raw product should know what is happening. We think that the time has come for realistic appraisal of your P.E.I. 1954 export market.

We are, Sir, etc. JONES, WEISMANN & CO. INC.

Per C. F. Weismann Boston, Mass.

The Poet's Corner

CULBIN SANDS

Here lay a fair fat land; But now its townships, kirks, graveyards Beneath bald hills of sand Lie buried deep as Babylonian shards.

And where now hedgehog delves And conies hollow their long caves Houses will build themselves And tombstones rewrite names on dead men's graves.

But gales may blow again; And like a sandglass turned about The hills in a dry rain. Will flow away and the old land look out;

And where now hedgehog delves And conies hollow their long caves Houses will build themselves And tombstones rewrite names on dead men's graves.

—Andrew Young.

The Age Old Story

And, behold, one came and said unto him, Good Master, what good thing shall I do, that I may have eternal life? And he said unto him, Why callest thou me good? there is none good but one, that is, God: but if thou wilt enter into life, keep the commandments.

THE WHOLE TOWN IS TALKING ABOUT THE VALUES GREENDAL'S ARE GIVING. MEN'S SUITS—2 Pairs of Pants, Reg. 39.50—NOW 29.50. MEN'S SPORT COATS—Regular 24.50—NOW 19.50. MEN'S TOPCOATS—Regular 29.50—NOW 19.50. 10% OFF ALL OTHER SUITS, SPORT COATS and TOPCOATS. Choose From The Largest Selection In Town. Use our lay-away plan — a small deposit will hold any garment. The GREENDAL CO. LTD. MEN'S STORE 144 GT. GEO. ST.

The Passing Scene

By Observer "THE TRIUMPH OF THE TREE"

Because trees have played such an important role in the story of man and the history of civilization, any book about them is almost certain to be interesting; if the author happens to be deeply learned in the ways of Nature as well as poetically inclined, it may even be fascinating.

Such a book is "The Triumph Of The Tree" by Mr. John Stewart Collis, a British author of note and a distinguished agriculturist who specializes in ecology, a branch of science that deals with the natural characteristics and habits of living organisms. Although this book appeared in England nearly four years ago, it was produced on this side of the Atlantic only within recent weeks; and that is a pity, for there is no part of the world where its message is more urgently needed.

Mr. Collis' theme is that for every act of vandalism, intentional or accidental, against Nature or any of her works, man must pay a penalty of more or less severity. Nature never overlooks an offence, never excuses human recklessness. One does not have to be learned in ecology to realize the truth of this. Soil erosion is followed, sooner or later, depending on the powers of recuperation of any particular soil, by dust storms which on the North Atlantic continent and elsewhere have assumed alarming and even disastrous proportions.

It has been estimated that, but for emergency and long range measures taken in the late twenties and early thirties by the United States Government, at least 50% of the land in the Mid-West and South West States would now be totally unfit for agriculture. Even as it is, large tracts of once fertile land have been virtually abandoned.

Water pollution, a very common act of desecration (for there is no other name for it) in this industrial age, means disease and much loss of fish and wildlife. Wanton destruction of the forests can lead, and often in fact has led, to rainless and arid climatic conditions, even to famine and pestilence.

Man has seen himself for so long as the lord of creation that it may take a continued series of near cataclysms to bring him to a realization of his true status, that of a partner with Nature. Mr. Collis apparently believes that if the human species is to endure at all it will have to make a permanent settlement with Nature, not on its own terms but on hers; that means that man must be prepared to curb his powers of destruction which today, of course, are more deadly than ever before. Failing that, the destruction of mankind by natural forces is inevitable, though it may take some little time yet; Nature is unhurried but relentless in her judgments.

There is a lot of loose talk these days about "man's conquest over Nature" in the harnessing of the atom. One gets the impression that in Mr. Collis' view this is sheer nonsense or even a contradiction of the actual situation. He is probably right; the development of a force which, conceivably, could smash the developer and all his kindred and all his works to smithereens, is hardly a sign of "conquest" over anything. Man's greatest need today is not to conquer Nature, which he cannot do anyway, but to learn to live with her in humble partnership.

In this Province soil erosion, water pollution, and mass tree destruction, have in late years emerged as major problems in our economy. No doubt these things have been going on ever since the Island was first settled; it is only in comparatively recent years, however, that they have attracted much attention.

To their credit, be it said, recent governments have shown interest in ways and means of keeping these problems from getting out of hand. There still remains much to be done, the main task now seems to be that of building up popular acceptance of the principle of conservation in all its many aspects. The matter is becoming more and more urgent daily if the Island's fertility and resources are to be kept in healthy condition, or even in survival, for future generations.

While it is met and right that government should take the lead in a well planned and vigorous conservation policy it is not mainly a governmental problem. In a society like ours all the laws and statutes and regulations which the lawyers can think up are of no use unless they are girded and sustained by a well informed public opinion. Public awareness of the need for a basic requisite to any official policy; only a process of systematic and sustained education in the importance of the cause is able to bring that awareness about.

In the last few years our tree population, never too robust, has been subjected to a series of merciless assaults; no doubt these assaults have been the means of adding a few dollars to our provincial gross income.

Whether or not irreparable damage has been done is, of course, a matter for the experts to ponder; but anyone who has the slightest knowledge of the relationship between trees and soil fertility cannot be unaware of the long range possibilities.

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