

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, MARCH 6, 1952

Footnote To History

A little known episode in history is recalled by the National Geographic Society in a recent bulletin. Back in 1859, the native king of the Fiji Islands, Thakombau, found himself—like the Britain of today—greatly in need of United States dollars.

Thakombau offered to cede his islands to Britain, for nothing, if Britain would pay the bill. But Britain was not at all interested. The king then made the same offer to the United States in settlement of the bill.

In desperation, he tried to interest Australia and then Germany but with the same result. Finally, however, Britain accepted the islands in 1874 and has held them ever since. It is not made clear whether Britain got the islands for nothing or whether she had to absorb the \$43,000 indebtedness.

Taxes Too High

Taxes should be cut to a point where personal and corporate efficiency can again be stimulated, it is urged in a submission of the Canadian Chamber of Commerce. The national federation of the Boards of Trade and Chambers of Commerce has prepared a careful commentary on the weak points in Canadian Income Tax and Succession Duty Acts.

There is no special pleading for particular interests but various points are raised by the Chamber in which there appears to be injustice or where the general intent of the taxing statutes is not given effect to.

The particular point, however, is that the rates of taxation are excessive either for bringing in maximum revenue or for the encouragement of industrial development.

Miracle Taken For Granted

The progress which President Truman noted in his State of the Union address and later in his economic message, says the London Economist, will be observed with very considerable respect in other capitals. It has been passed over in Washington almost as though the President and Mr. Wilson (chief mobilizer) were dispensing bromides and platitudes.

"During this past year we added more than 1 million men and women to our armed forces. The total is now nearly 3,500,000. We have made rapid progress in the field of atomic weapons. We have turned out \$16 billion worth of military supplies and equipment, three times as much as the year before."

"We are now in the second year of a three-year programme which will double our output of aluminum, increase our electric power supply by 40 per cent, and increase our steel-making capacity by 15 per cent."

The days when the United States could enter a period of international danger with 150,000 men in its armed forces are so far away now as to have been forgotten. Nobody now considers it remarkable that the United States should be spending, as Mr. Wilson notes, more than \$1.5 billion a year on the development of atomic energy.

There never has been, either in U. S. or anywhere else on earth, such an increase in twelve months in electric power capacity. The steel industry has added 8 million ingot tons a year to its production since the Korean war began. The planned peak of 200 million tons a year is due in 1954.

In 1950 about \$7 billion was put into the building of industrial plant in the United States. Last year the total rose to \$11 billion. As the chart shows, over a third of the new facilities qualified for tax concessions. Completed factory construction last year was 90 per cent higher than it had been in 1950.

The aircraft industry, by no means a dwarf before all the trouble began, expanded by 67 per cent last year, increasing its payroll in the process from 239,000 in November, 1950, to more than 400,000. Employment in ordnance plants, which was 24,000 before the Korean war began, is now about 60,000.

Mr. Truman suggested that the way in which the basic capacity of the United States to produce has increased is "perhaps the most amazing thing about our economic progress." The word amazing, comments The Economist, should no doubt be used carefully and infrequently, but the President seems to be well entitled to employ it here even though almost nobody in America shows much outward sign of amazement at what is going on.

EDITORIAL NOTES

The worry over Tuesday's anticipated storm was wasted.

The hardest worked individuals at present are those manning the snow ploughs.

Island draggers are now to scout for Rose Fish or sea perch to sell across the border.

The cost of living as a whole in January dropped seven-tenths of a point, but farm products dropped 13.5.

This year CBC will pay out from our taxes more than \$2,000,000 in radio artists' fees for advertisers.

Governments take \$1 out of every \$7 spent by store customers. They, not store owners, are the profiteers.

In U. S. A., says Rev. Dr. Charles H. Schmitz of New York, three times as many homes have radios as have bathtubs. This could not possibly be the case here.

The "Tourist Bureau is going places" these days, or at least its publicity matter is. According to our Ottawa correspondent the present issue of the Federal booklet does ample justice to our attractions as a holiday resort.

Kenaf fiber may largely supplant jute in burlap and cordage according to a report from New Guinea. It is claimed to be more resistant to mold than jute, lighter in color and to take a more distinct brand than commonly used sacks.

Fluoridation of the water supply has been approved by the American Dental Association. Its secretary testified to Congress that, "There is more scientific evidence available to substantiate the safety of adding controlled amounts of fluorides to water than there is for the addition of any chemical to a food or food product."

In Summerside they celebrated Education Week by an exhibition to show what the children can do in the way of helping themselves. This included a model of what the youngsters would like in the shape of a high school gymnasium and civic auditorium. It looks from this though as if the long-discussed Provincial Museum will land in Prince County instead of Queen's. Initiative is more than half the battle.

John Edward Redmond, Irish statesman and leader of the Irish Nationalist Party, died this date 1918. He was Irish parliamentary whip at the time of the split in the Nationalist Party in 1891 and became leader of the Parnellite minority. Later he was chairman of the United Party. On the outbreak of war he supported the British Government but the Sinn Fein had become the popular party and Redmond's prestige declined.

Ex-Mayor Hiram McCallum of Toronto, defeated at last election, has been made assistant general manager of the Canadian National Exhibition at a salary of \$10,000. Mayor Lampert, who defeated Mr. McCallum, says the salary was set without authority from the directors or executives of the exhibition. Mayor Lampert said no salary figure was set at that time. He is a vigorous opponent of the appointment.

The first major revision of the Criminal Code since 1892 is now before Parliament. The piecemeal amendments which the Code has undergone in the interval have resulted in its becoming a monstrous thing, without form but certainly not lacking in bulk. It is expected that revision will mean a reduction of some 400 sections with a correspondingly great improvement in consistency and clarity.

Conversation Opener



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.

FARM MARKETING PROBLEMS

Sir.—We have a Farm Forum group which meets every Monday night to listen to the national broadcast and to discuss many things which affect farmers and others in our community. Much of our discussion this winter centered around the efforts of farmers, and primary producers generally, to obtain some measure of control over the marketing of their products, a step which more and more farmers appear to consider necessary.

FROM ALTARS

Ye barren peaks, so mightily outlined In naked rock against the viewless sky, Your rugged grandeur mocks my human pride, And rouses to a passionate reply, Ye scorn the foot that treads your pathless ways, The voice that breaks your primal solitudes, Ye, even the eye that views your serried heights, The ear that hears your canyon interludes, Yet know that when your music-making brooks Have buried you beneath the conquering sea, And mingled heart of stone with oozy mud, The topmost summit with the level sea, This ear shall hear the deathless song of Life, This eye shall see beyond the outermost skies, This voice shall sing soul-music, Shall tread the love-lit paths of Paradise, Should I, then, born immortal, bow to you, Who are but transient mounds of earthy clod?— I kneel in humble awe To worship at the altars of my God.

THE AGE-OLD STORY

Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; and let him return unto the Lord, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon. For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts.

ITALIAN GENIUS

Raphael, one of the most famous of the great Italian painters, was orphaned at the age of 10.

The Poets Corner

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EMPLOYMENT PROBLEM

Sir,—How is it that when I tried for a job at the Employment Office it was always "Nothing yet"? I also tried another place, and it was the same. You have got to be married, or a sister, or else a tradesman. As far as practical work is concerned, I sure learned it the hard way in the Navy. They did not say to me "Nothing doing" when I joined up in '39. After that I see every month they have a get-together for all the D. P.'s at the Legion. I wonder if the officials of the Employment Office would have one for all the unemployed. The Drill Shed would not hold them. Their report for the month said there was less employment now. Oh yes? The reason is that for every person drawing unemployment insurance there are three or four who do not get enough work to draw the money. I tried to get a course at welding, but they said it was filled up. Why doesn't the Government pay the train fare for all the fellows that are unemployed here in Charlottetown to places where they can get work? I think the trains would be filled. There are plenty with brains here, unemployed, and all would work at anything they could get, and they are not all unskilled either.

OLD CHARLOTTETOWN

Four building lots, being part of Town Lot 10, in Third Hundred, were sold at auction on Saturday by Wm. Dodd, Esq. The house and lot on the corner of Rochford and Grafton Streets were purchased by Mr. Chas. Dalziel for the sum of \$670. Two lots on Rochford Street were bought by Mr. W. H. Frazer for \$365 and \$350 each. He also purchased the remaining lot on Grafton Street for \$440.

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From The Monastic To The Modern Farming

(By Stewart Angus in The Scotsman) mittedly there is a shortage of the monasteries the writer takes a long leap forward to the agricultural improvements of the eighteenth century. The introduction of root crops and artificial grasses, the enclosure of fields, the planting of shelter belts, the improvement of the soil by drainage and liming, the appearance of a lighter more efficient plough, the invention of machines for winnowing and threshing and reaping, all the granting of long leases—all those innovations which revolutionized Scottish farming are described somewhat summarily. Yet Mr. Franklin gives a useful outline of the expanding process which, though it slowly affected less-favoured regions, earned Scotch farmers a reputation for pre-eminence which they have never lost. The growth of agricultural research and education, which is described in the penultimate chapter, was also a factor of great importance. A short history of the subject is inevitably open to criticism in the matter of proportion. Mr. Franklin's account of the Highland clearances might have been preceded by more information about earlier farming in the Highlands. And, as has been suggested already, his detailed treatment of monastic farming, as it was practised at Coupar Angus, leaves insufficient space for modern developments. Medieval measures of land and weight were more variable and complex than is indicated here. It is not likely that the ploughage, for instance, was at all times and in all places 104 acres, or that the mysterious davoch was always four times that extent. But the tyranny of space makes it necessary to leave such problems unexplored. At all events, Mr. Franklin deserves credit for having done something that has not been tackled before. Much has been written about agriculture, but surveys have been local, partial, limited in scope or time. Although farming still is our largest industry and is of predominant importance in our economic and social history, it is strange that nobody hitherto as far as one knows, has written a general historical account. Probably the meagre and scattered nature of early sources and the overwhelming mass of later material have daunted scholars. Mr. Franklin has filled a gap, and done it ably.

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