

THE GUARDIAN

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CIRCULATION

"Covers Prince Edward Island like the dew"

"The strongest memory is weaker than the weakest ink"

CHARLOTTETOWN WEDNESDAY, DEC. 16, 1953

The Top Six Inches

The importance of guarding against soil erosion was not exaggerated by Mr. Angus MacLean in his speech on the C. C. F. motion for a Federal-Provincial conference on conservation of natural resources.

Canada has already gone too far in the reckless exploitation of natural resources although not, perhaps, so far as the United States which is now feeling the pinch of scarcity of many materials which once were considered inexhaustible.

Without the trees the wind becomes a serious menace to the stability of soil. We are all familiar with the dust storms of the plains but it must not be overlooked that on a smaller scale the same thing happens to any cultivated area which lacks windbreaks in the form of trees.

There seem to have been no parliamentarians who denied the importance of conservation but some did point out that the matter is one of Provincial responsibility. Certainly the natural resources are Provincially owned for the most part but the Federal authorities had no difficulty about finding that uranium is of concern to the nation and that steps could be taken to encourage its development in the national interest.

The Military Moustache

As good an authority as any on military fashions is The Legionary, which this month carries an interesting article on what was once a familiar adornment of the man at arms. Unlike civilian fashions, the military moustache did not suddenly spring into existence but has come down through a hundred and fifty years of change.

The British soldier of Peninsular and Waterloo days scraped his upper lip, but immediately after that campaign moustaches began to appear in the ranks, no doubt due to contact with continental troops in Paris during the occupation. On August 2nd, 1830 an order was issued forbidding the growing of "moustachios" except by Household Cavalry and Hussars.

With the coming of the Crimean War in 1854, the wearing of moustaches became optional. The Horse Guards Circular Memorandum on this point, dated July 21st, 1854, reads: "A large part of the Army being employed in Turkey, where it has been found beneficial to keep the upper lip unshaven and allow the moustaches to grow, the General Officer Commanding-in-Chief is pleased to authorise that practice in the army generally."

wearing of the moustache was also made optional, as it is at present. During the last war, the general Army trend was to shave the upper lip, especially among the American Forces. This was in direct contrast to the First War when nearly every soldier sported some sort of upper lip covering.

Long-Term Expenditures

"The sidetracking of important public works because they are too costly has proven to be one of the most expensive policies followed by all levels of government in Canada," says the Toronto Globe and Mail. It points out that costs usually are much higher when dire necessity finally forces plans to be carried out, than they would have been years before, when first needed.

"The Globe and Mail did well to make its point," comments the Financial Post. "By all means let us have economy in government. But let us have vision too. So often, the short run decisions to save expense, are long run invitations to local or regional disasters—and gigantic unnecessary costs."

These observations apply to Prince Edward Island as well as to the larger and wealthier Provinces. In agricultural and fishery expansion, in transportation, public works, education and other facilities, larger outlays now are involved than ever before but it is the long-term view which must be kept in mind. Marking time means retrogression. But progress also requires careful planning if the full value of expenditures on a modern scale are to be realized.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Dingaan's Day, South Africa and Swaziland.

With proof that man existed in North America 20,000 years ago the term "New World" loses even more of its meaning. In the political sphere the United States has what is probably the world's oldest written constitution and in industry and commerce American techniques are gradually being adopted in the "old lands".

The proposal that Summerside have a new street along the waterfront embankment has much to commend it. Besides providing an alternative route for the heavy traffic of the business district there would be the possibility of providing a pleasant promenade along the strand.

The deer, graceful and symmetrical is proposed by a Canadian authoress to replace as a Canadian emblem the beaver which reputedly works so hard and delves continually in the mud. Of the two pictures conjured up, that of the deer is certainly the more attractive but just possibly the second is the more appropriate.

Communist China's ministry of health can get people to kill mosquitoes but cannot persuade them to count the victims. It seems that reports of the number of pounds of mosquitoes killed were duly sent to the authorities who demanded more detailed figures on the operation. Even Communist efficiency of administration, however, failed to obtain the mortality figures except in terms of weight.

Noel Pierce Coward, English playwright and actor, was born this date 1899. He began his stage career at the age of eleven and rapidly achieved a high reputation with both critics and playgoers. "Fallen Angels" was a satire on "modern" wives. Other plays include "Hay Fever", "Private Lives" and "Blithe Spirit". "Bittersweet", an operetta became very popular and his motion picture "In Which We Serve" was a magnificent tribute to the Navy.

"A really great cheese," says Saturday Night, "is one of man's finest accomplishments; and it is odd that this fact has not earned more recognition from the people whose palates have been as sensitive as their feeling for language. Many's the long night I've dreamed of cheese—toasted, mostly," says Ben Gunn in Treasure Island, and Eugene Field asked the Lord to bless him with apple pie and cheese, but not too many others have recorded the delight to be found in a good cheese."

To Take Along When Visiting Someone Sick



(Suggestion from a reader.)

The Poet's Corner

THE SKYLARK

I stood where Nature's vivid verdure smiles, On many mounds and freshens on the hill, And saw the sea and all the girded isles

Half sunken in the light — and further still, Like one in love who greets his soul's desire, I saw a homing joy and heard its thrill

Against a cloud the sun had lit with fire, And hailed it soaring for my spirit's sake, A golden rapture half in brown attire.

The new day drowsed and paled though scarce awake, With vapoury fingers rubbed its dewy eyes, And would enact the sleep it could not shake

Behind the hill, where only slumber lies, But for the tiny lark that held the skies.

—Laurence Dakin

True Greatness

(Winnipeg Free Press)

Foresight, statesmanship, political wisdom and indomitable courage have won for Sir Winston Churchill the esteem of the entire free world; but he has won affection, too, because of his many acts of kindness. His spirit of generosity was strikingly illustrated during the Second World War when Sir Winston was Prime Minister. According to the version of a Socialist opponent he had occasion to disapprove of an action in the House and afterwards he went over to Mr. James Maxton, leader of the ultra-radical Independent Labor Party remarking: "Maxton you are nothing but a Socialist dilettante."

"To this Mr. Maxton replied: 'This is probably quite true, but you know, your friends assured me up to a year or two ago that you were an extinct volcano.'"

"Sir Winston smiled and said: 'That's quite right, and it took an Armageddon to throw me up into my proper place.'"

Some time afterwards Mr. Maxton became victim to the illness from which he died. But Sir Winston never ceased to inquire after him. After the Labor leader's death, although the House of Commons could not move a motion of sympathy as Mr. Maxton was a backbencher, Sir Winston asked the Speaker to allow members to rise as a mark of respect in the passing of an outstanding figure of the British House of Commons.

Recalling the incident, in the London News-Chronicle, Mr. John McGovern M.P. comments that one of the most broadminded and generous tributes came at a later date. Just before a memorial meeting for James Maxton, Sir Winston privately approached Mr. McGovern and said: "I want to speak to you about how his (Maxton's) widow is placed. I want to raise a few thousands of pounds for her, to show my respect and affection for Jimmy; and I can do so privately and without fuss."

Of this kindly act Mr. McGovern comments: "To say I was 'bowed over' would understate the case, as I had never known of such generosity by a political opponent. I had to assure him that Mrs. Maxton was fairly comfortably placed but felt sure his wonderful gesture would be greatly appreciated."

Mr. McGovern adds: "I thanked him — but I do feel that Sir Winston is not only an outstanding figure in British politics but has hidden qualities of generosity, broadmindedness, humanity and

Canada Has A Flag

(The Globe and Mail)

The Canadian Parliament has once again debated, with no result, the question of an "official" Canadian flag. The right procedure for the members is obvious. They should either forget about the matter forever or, if they want to be formal about it, ratify use of the flag which has been recognized as Canada's standard for many years both inside and outside this country. This is the red ensign, with the Union Jack in the top left-hand corner and the Canadian shield on the fly.

A committee of the House of Commons studied this subject in 1946. It collected 2,695 designs and it received 42,000 letters. It adjourned without coming to any conclusion. This was not surprising; and the negative result of the latest argument at Ottawa was to be expected. The design of a national flag is not a question that can be properly settled by a committee, no matter how wise and public-spirited its members may be.

No committee made the Union Jack or the Stars and Stripes or the French tricolor. No committee chose God Save the King or the Star Spangled Banner or the

loyalty that go to make a really great man." Such episodes recall the lines of Wordsworth: "That best portion of a good man's life — His little nameless, unremembered acts — Of kindness and love."

Mr. McGovern's tribute will be echoed by all free men.

Old Charlottetown (And P. E. I.)

DEATH PENALTY FOR RAPE From the reports of the Legislative Assembly, March 5, 1835: "The Bill to amend the Criminal Code, and for repealing the Act relating to Treasons and Felonies in Prince Edward Island, was read a third time, as amended.

"Mr. Cooper moved that the Tenth Clause, by which the punishment of death is inflicted for the crime of rape, be struck out of the said Bill and that the following be inserted: 'And be it further enacted, that any person convicted of the crime of Rape, shall be imprisoned for a term not exceeding seven years, with or without hard labour for the said term, or any part thereof, at the discretion of the Court before which the offence shall be tried.'"

"The motion was negatived, on the following division: Yeas—Messrs. Cooper, Green, McNutt, Clarke, Macdonald, Ramsay, Thornton, James, Palmer, Pope, Nelson, Binns, LeLacheur—10. The Bill then passed, and the amendments sent to the Council for their concurrence."

ed to return to the country the wealth the People's party had acquired during one-party rule from 1921 to 1946.

ANKARA, Turkey, (AP) — The Turkish Grand National Assembly controlled by the Democratic party, voted Tuesday to confiscate the property and assets of the opposition Republican People's party. Prime Minister Adnan Menderes said the law was passed

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AGENTS THROUGHOUT THE PROVINCE

Notes By The Way

A scientist claims that some day the people of the world will be toothless. Then we'll just have to pass laws with guns in them. —Hamilton Spectator

A large number of people who have left the game of checkers far behind them would be surprised to learn that in the United States, at least, checkers in this year of 1953 outranks chess 50 to one as a popular game. —Fort William Times-Journal

Something new has been brought about in Havana, Cuba, where a huge 22-storey hotel to cost \$10,000,000 will be built out of the powerful Hotel and Restaurant Workers' Association retirement fund. The hotel will be managed by the wealthy Hilton chain, Hilton International, with a 20-year contract. The union will receive two-thirds of all profits. The experiment of a union owning a huge hotel and its operation by a great chain of hotels will be watched with a great deal of interest. —(Niagara Falls Review).

By the end of October the British Aircraft Industry's exports had reached almost \$54 1/2 million — an increase of \$10 1/2 million on the total for the whole of 1952. Aviation exports for October, the last complete monthly total available, exceeded the \$5 million mark for the sixth time this year. They are now running at an annual rate of some \$66 million based on the first ten months of the year. —(British Aircraft Society).

If you were working on the news desk of a newspaper and two news stories came to you, one about a fight between an alligator and dog in which the dog won, and one about Syngman Rhee's threat to prolong the Korean war, which would you place on the front page with a big headline? News editors are faced with problems like this every day and many times a day, for a much greater volume of news flows across news desks than can possibly be published. There must be selection and there must be emphasis. Some stories are published and get the big headlines and prominent positions. Others go to the waste basket. —Vancouver Province

This is certainly getting to be a debunking age. Some of our stanchest classical beliefs are falling down around our heads. The literary phillips and scientific scepticisms relentlessly pick out the flaws in time-honoured conclusions. We have endured for decades the Baconian stand on the works of Shakespeare, and we have been willing to accept the fact that there were no great Patagonian giants. Most people are not yet convinced of the flying saucer legend, but they were impressed

by the secret-agent story of Calgary's George Dupre, and had no more reason to doubt it than they had in question the authenticity of the Piltdown Man. Yet both these latter circumstances, separated by 500,000 years of time, have been proved spurious. —Saint John Telegraph-Journal

One of the things that they used to teach in the long ago when we went to school was how and when penny postage was established in the British Empire. Now, alas, it is going to cost a nickel to mail a letter. The only consolation is that a nickel is worth something—even though you can't buy a chocolate bar with one. The increase in postage rates certainly must have come as a surprise because we saw no intimation that it might occur. Certainly it was not mentioned by any minister of the government prior to the election. In the last budget they took the stamps up by cheques and now they make up for what they lost by adding it on the price of mailing a letter. —(Summerside Journal-Pioneer)

WANT A PIER? LONDON, (CP) — The government-operated British Railways has a pier for sale. The structure which juts into the Thames here will be useless when improvements to the ferry service are completed.

TREES FOR KOREA HAMILTON, (CP) — A shipment of 30 Christmas trees, enough to supply all officers' and sergeants' messes, men's canteens and brigade headquarters of the 25th Infantry Brigade in Korea, will leave Hamilton today for the Far East. Delivery of the trees was arranged by a group of World War Two veterans here.

Advertisement for Gillette blades: No Other LOW-PRICED Blades Shave As Easy As Gillette. 8 For 25 3 For 10

PROFESSIONAL CARDS

Grid of professional cards including: H. J. Mabon, R.O. Optometrist; Dr. W. R. Carson Chiropractor; A. Walthen Gaudet, L.L.B. Barrister; Chas. R. McQuaid B.A. Barrister; Palmer & Haslam A. J. Haslam, B.A., L.L.B. Barrister; Gordon E. MacMillan, B.A., L.L.B. Barrister; MacPhee & Trainor E. F. MacPhee, B.A., Q.C. E. Somerled Trainor, B.A. Barristers; J. Elmer Blanchard, B.A. Barrister; Byron J. Grant, O.D. Optometrist; J. A. Carruthers, R.O. Optometrist; McDonald, Currie & Co. Chartered Accountants; H. R. Doane & Company Chartered Accountants.