

THE GUARDIAN

Authorized as Second Class Mail Post Office Department, Ottawa. The Island Guardian Publishing Co. President and Associate Editor, Ian A. Burnett, Associate Editor, Frank Walker. CIRCULATION "Covers Prince Edward Island like the dew" "The Strongest Memory is Weaker Than the Weakest Ink". CHARLOTTETOWN, MONDAY, MAY 5, 1952

Musical Festival Week

The opening today of the Musical Festival eclipses all other events in public interest and this year a whole week is being devoted to the Festival activities. The entries are so numerous that three halls will be required for the contests. This great movement has swept Canada in recent years and nowhere has its popularity been more evident than in Prince Edward Island. It is planned to use the adjudicator's report form as supplied through the Federation of Canada Music Festivals, with which the Provincial organization is affiliated, the standard scale of marks being 50 for technique and 50 for interpretation. Choral singing and folk dancing are included in the syllabus again this year and should prove more popular than ever.

The Festival this year will be the seventh to be held under the auspices of the Association, and in number and variety of entries, as well as in public interest, promises to eclipse all past events of its kind. All parts of the Province will be represented, and the participants will include choral reading classes, singing groups and rhythm bands as well as solo performers of vocal and instrumental music. While the competition will be keen, the rivalry will be of the friendliest order and will serve to bring together all classes of our community in the enjoyment of one of mankind's richest heritages.

Blood Donor Clinics

Six months have now elapsed since any Blood Donor Clinics have been held in this Province. Fortunately the credit established by the Province at last December's clinics has just been sufficient to provide for the ever-increasing demands in our local hospitals with a small balance over and above to go towards the commitments for the armed services overseas. It is now time to replenish the supply in the bank to keep the service going for the next three months.

Through the Red Cross Blood Transfusion Service blood is available free of any charge to all requiring this type of therapy. It follows that all who possibly can should make a deposit in this bank for the good of their fellowman and in case of personal necessity. While citizens of Prince Edward Island have responded quite well in the past it is to be hoped that they will be even more generous on this occasion and exceed the required minimum of 950.

Mount Stewart J. C. C.

Tonight the newly organized Junior Chamber of Commerce at Mount Stewart is to receive its charter. It will be welcomed into a far flung organization which speaks out in the interest of the prosperity of Canada as a whole and yet which is composed of the wide-awake business men of individual communities, large and small, who are banded together for the benefit of their own immediate community.

In a sense the Junior Chambers of Commerce are a pressure group. But that is only true in the sense that they are alert to the needs and possibilities of their own locality and draw the attention of other private individuals, organizations or governments to those which they cannot deal with by their own unaided efforts.

Mount Stewart is a thriving village, known for the enterprise and public spirit of its citizens, and the new Chamber will undoubtedly be energetic in both local and more general affairs.

Fewer But Larger Farms

One of the difficulties in providing modern services and facilities to rural areas across Canada is the fact that the population in these areas is becoming more widely spaced. While the total occupied farm area increased in the decade between 1941 and 1951, the number of occupied farms is lower. The average area per farm increased from 256 acres in 1941 to 281 acres in June of last year. The Census Bureau special compilation, based on the 1951 Agricultural Census, shows that there has been an unbroken upward trend in average acres per farm from 124 acres in 1901.

This constitutes a problem in the matter of roads, telephones and extension of rural electrification, and undoubtedly is reflected in the higher cost of these services than if the area per occupied farm was

smaller and the number of farm homes greater.

The data provided by the bureau shows that the total number of farms had decreased in every province except British Columbia, where the increase is given as 21 per cent. Farm areas declined from 1941 to 1951 in each of the Maritime Provinces, Quebec and Ontario, the declines ranging from 6.3 per cent in Prince Edward Island to .17 per cent in New Brunswick and totaling 3,994,480 acres. Gains in farm area took place in the Prairie Provinces to a total of 3,723,676 acres, while in British Columbia the farm area rose by 666,704 acres.

The number of occupied farms by the June, 1951, census was 623,091 for all Canada, or 619,465 exclusive of Newfoundland. In 1941 the total was 723,858, indicating a drop of 113,393 farms. However, as there was a change in definition of a farm holding from one acre with production value of \$50 in 1940 to one to three acres with a production value of \$250 in 1950, the decrease in occupied farms has been 58,000 or about nine per cent.

EDITORIAL NOTES

St. Dunstan's officer cadets parade for their annual inspection today.

According to the Canadian Daily Newspapers' annual report, business is booming all over the country including the Maritimes.

At Middleton, N. S., a farmer doing his spring ploughing turned up a quantity of Irish Cobblers in perfect condition. Perhaps, like Western wheat growers, our potato men may find themselves gathering two crops in a season.

Because of road conditions comparatively few Island centres are being visited by the mobile blood donor clinic. As the need has increased rather than lessened it means that more people than ever should try to attend the clinics being held.

A proposal that Britain's Liberals should call themselves the radical party will be discussed at the annual Liberal assembly May 15-17 in the hope and expectation of instilling new life into an exhausted body politic.

Whooping cough and diphtheria are both communicable and preventable. Prevention, through co-operation with the regional immunization clinics of the Department of Health and Welfare, is certainly better than taking a chance with these childhood diseases.

At the Presbyterian College convocation at Montreal Friday night Rev. R. J. Berlis, of St. Andrew and St. Paul's Church, had the DD degree conferred upon him. The Niall Hope Burnett prize for Boy Scout and mission work was awarded to John A. Johnson, M.A. Dr. Berlis is well liked and popular here.

The Ontario Milk Producers Association proposed a plan to send surplus milk to Britain and needy countries. The plan would set aside 10 cents for every hundred-weight of milk shipped to market. Butter and cheese producers and the Federal and Provincial Governments each would be asked to contribute the same amount to the milk fund.

Francis Bret Harte, American author, died fifty years ago today. Parodies such as his skit on Disraeli, and humour such as "The Heathen Chinese" earned him a high reputation but his masterpieces were tales of mining life in California. "Luck of Roaring Camp", "The Outcasts of Poker Flat" and "Tennessee's Partner" are but a few in which he cast a spell of glamour over a rough life.

As Superintendent Montgomery pointed out at Summerside the other day, the proposed C.N.R. busline service will not mean less but more employment locally, inasmuch as all the buses would be serviced here in the Province and not sent to the Railway shops at Moncton. This would mean extra men required to work at the repair depot which would be located in Charlottetown.

Liberals in Parliament have been "spilling the beans" on what takes place in caucus. The Prime Minister warned his followers that they must get through the agenda before prorogation as he was determined to have no more secret sessions with its consequent expense. Immediately the House met the leader of the Opposition appealed to the Government to have their business so arranged to avoid the expense of a second session. Meantime individual Conservatives are appealing to the Government to increase members' indemnities further and not to be afraid of repercussions so far as the Opposition is concerned.

All Set For An Earful



Old Charlottetown (And P. E. I.)

HOME INDUSTRIES

The following excerpts from a report of the King's County Fair and Exhibition, held in the Drill Shed, Georgetown, in October, 1871, indicate the flourishing condition of local industries and handicrafts at the time:

"Mr. Donald MacLeod, of Montague Bridge, exhibited some excellent specimens of leather, particularly an imitation of French calkskin; Mr. John Forbes, of Georgetown, made quite a large display in the way of strong winter boots, garters, and neat and well finished ladies' boots; while Mr. MacLean, of Georgetown, had everything to himself in the harness line, his very handsome silver mounted set being deservedly admired.

A fox trap and a collection of edged tools and chisels, reflected much credit upon the inventive genius and workmanship of Messrs. D. & A. Mooney, of Little Harbour, the two young men who manufactured them. The chisels were well tempered, and keen enough to cut a hair. Mr. MacLean, of Dundas, exhibited a spinning wheel and jack reel, which were well put out of hand. The wooden plough of Mr. E. Weatherie, of Georgetown, was justly entitled to the prize it received, as were also the iron plough of Mr. James Dewar, of Brudenell, and the moulding one exhibited by Mr. Lavers, of Georgetown. There was but one cart on exhibition; it was from the establishment of Mr. MacLaren, of New Perth, and was strong and substantially built.

"There was a larger number of wagons than in former years. Mr. Sterns' single buggy was a splendid piece of workmanship, and of course took the first prize. Mr. Mill's two single wagons, and the Messrs. Campbell's double wagons were very good of their kind, and occupy an honourable place in the prize list. Nor must we overlook Mr. Lane's plain and fancy willow-baskets.

"The fair daughters of King's County nobly sustained the previous high character of their domestic manufactures. In the production of cloths, druggets, flannels, counterpanes, linen, carpets, hearthrugs, bagging, socks and mittens, they are not easily surpassed. Their shawls, plaids, hearthrugs and druggets were beautiful, both in pattern and finish. In fancy work, in bead and Berlin wool, there was a fair assortment. Miss Hessian exhibited a very fine ottoman and other finery articles; Miss Cogswell's picture of David dancing before the ark; Mrs. McGowan's water color painting and Mrs. Lane's picture frames set in shells, cherry and plum stones; and Miss McLaren and Miss MacDonald's bead work would be no discredit to any Exhibition."

Old Age

(Winnipeg Free Press) Amer Shahat is an old man. According to him, as quoted in a recent news despatch, he was married, for the second time, in 1872 and he was 120 years old then. On this showing 200 years of history have swept past this tough old Egyptian. Hundreds of millions of his fellow mortals, including such comparatively fugitive spirits as Napoleon, Voltaire, Shelley, Schopenhauer and Freud, have, "like snow upon the desert's dusty face, lighned a little hour or two — and gone." Amer Shahat has outstayed them all. And now, by virtue of his staying power and that alone, he has been awarded two inches of type on the world's news services.

Unless Amer is exaggerating, he could have been contemporary in the 18th century with Count Alessandro Cagliostro, the world champion claimant to longevity. Amer still has a long way to go before he can match the Count's self-confessed record of longevity. Cagliostro wore a diamond ring which he swore he had received directly from the shapely hand of Cleopatra.

Not Socialized

(From the Ottawa Journal by Bert L. Marsh.)

The boss of Britain's railroads says people who call them Socialized don't know what they're talking about.

"British Railways," their executive chief, David Blee, said in an interview, "are unified. That means the four groups that used to operate separately now work as one under a central administration, with their own divisional bosses.

"People keep asking me if Socialism is doing a better job with the trains than old capitalism. It's time they were told we are NOT Socialized. They don't know what they're talking about."

Blee was not grinding an axe to protect the British train service from what he apparently thought was a nasty word. He is in Canada drumming up business in hopes that thousands of Canadians will travel by rail in Britain this summer.

But he was unhappy that many people outside Britain have an idea that because the railroads for which he worked all his life were brought together under the title "British Railways" four years ago — during a Socialist regime in Britain — it follows that they are Socialized.

"The fact is," he said, "Winston Churchill planned the unification as far back as the early 1940s just because the Socialists put it into effect when they got into power, everyone goes off half-cocked and calls us Socialized."

Blee, a former official of the Great Western Railway Company that joined the Southern, London North Eastern and the London, Midland and Scottish, was convinced that their unification was there to stay.

He called it a natural evolution. After the first trains started operating in Britain, it took 15 to 20 years before the more than 200 companies merged into four. It was just a matter of time and letting things run their course, Blee said. Now they are one.

For one thing, he said, unification saved money and duplication. For another, the trains now are run, with two exceptions in the top jobs, by the same key railroaders who ran the old companies (he called them groups). Blee answers to the Railway Commissioners who are something like Canada's Board of Transport Commissioners. The Minister of Transport is the overall boss but according to Blee, his main interest in trains is riding them and telling Parliament they make £1,250,000 a day.

ra 1,800 years before Amer Shahat arrived upon the Egyptian scene. And long before that, he insisted, he had joined in David's laughter at Jonathan's imitable wit. If Count Cagliostro and Amer Shahat had visited Mexico, they might after a hot day's journey, have found refuge from the blazing Mexican sun beneath the spreading branches of a cypress tree at Maris del Tule. Both Amer Shahat and the cypress tree still flourish. But that tree was still when Amer was a child. It was old when Cagliostro was born, even if we take that quite unreliable person at his word and make him contemporary with Helen of Troy. For El Tule, the Mexican cypress, is estimated to be 6,000 years old. Six thousand solar cycles of this whirling globe may be recorded in its narrow rings of growth. Twenty-eight men with outstretched arms can barely circle its 112 foot trunk and its branches cast a shadow 150 feet across. Measured against this perennial calendar the grizzled old Egyptian is a mere infant and the fabulous Count a transient upstart.

CHICAGO, May 2 (AP) — A five-year-old white, female fox terrier got a medal from the American Humane Association today for saving the lives of seven persons. Clover was credited with saving the lives of members of the Robert Jones family of Chicago March 2 when their apartment became filled with coal gas from the heating system.

The Poet's Corner

FROM "WHALE"

I heard the Whale rejoice, As he played the waves to a fan; And the Lord shall say with his Voice, 'Leviathan!'

"The Lord shall say with his Tongue, 'Now let all Heaven give hail To my Jest when I was young, To my very Whale.'"

Then the Whale careered in the Sea, He floundered with flailing tail: Flourished and rollicked he, 'Aha! Mine Empery!' For the Lord said, 'Let Whale Be! And there was Whale!'

—William Rose Benet

The Age-Old Story

Hear the word of the Lord, ye children of Israel.

SAFER SKIING

OSLO (CP) — No fewer than 263 local units of the Red Cross were on active duty over the Easter holidays when tens of thousands of Norwegians went skiing in the Eastern and Central mountain regions. Easter skiing has become a traditional holiday in Norway.

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Notes By The Way

The city hunter is a menace to the farmer. In the first place he is a trespasser. He is often discourtous. He leaves gates open, breaks down fences, shoots at anything that moves across a road, and is a general nuisance. The farmer, on whom the cities depend for food, is within his rights in seeking some more efficient measure of protection against hunters than he now possesses. — London Free Press.

The robbers who persuaded (with a gun) a Los Angeles tavern piano player to keep dispensing restful music while they completed their holdup showed a nice feeling for the cultural things in life—especially as they allowed the pianist to keep his money. But as courts are usually conducted without music, no such sentiments are likely to animate the judge should they appear before him.—Ottawa Citizen.

Property owners should not be penalized by way of increased assessment, by making minor additions, alterations or repairs, or by keeping up the appearance of their property by an occasional application of paint. These owners are not only keeping up, or improving their own premises, but they are raising the level of all surrounding properties. Certainly hiking assessments for showing a certain amount of civic pride is not conducive to keep up the general appearance of the town.—Strathroy Age-Dispatch.

Heartening word indeed is the news that the winter resort sections of New England did a bigger business this past season than ever before and that they are not through yet. In the regions farther north in higher altitudes they are talking about June business. They would like to have July 4 end their season as Labour Day has been ending the business of the summer resorts. It would be a great thing for New England if the winter sports business could be extended to July, but it would

be a better thing for New England if the beach business could be extended until October. September and October, for beauty, for unmatched sparkle, for two of New England's finest months. Ways must be found to "sell" them to the country.—Boston Post.

Sport has become a popular and lucrative business. To give the public spectacles it likes is as legitimate as giving it theatrical or moving picture shows. But commercialized sport should be closely supervised by the authorities. His clientele is made up of thousands of followers who, in an amphitheatre, undergo without realizing it all the mob emotions of madness is a well-known phenomenon. It passes quickly from enthusiasm to madness. Knowing this, the organizers of sports events assume the responsibility of keeping order in their establishments. Panic may follow any disorder. But how make sure that the manifestations of a crowd of spectators does not pass the point of supreme joy or anger. However desirable discipline may be, it is not learned in a day.—L'Evenement-Journal, Quebec.

Two daring Filipinos have obtained permission from the government to seek buried treasure in the very heart of Manila. The story is that the Japanese conquerors buried gold and jewels in the Augustinian Monks' compound near the end of the war. The Augustinian compound is in the historic walled city. Intramuros, in Manila. American artillery and infantrymen had to blast the Japanese from the wreckage, building by building. Today the wreckage is untouched—a graveyard of mines, booby traps and unexploded ammunition. The treasure hunt to be conducted by the two Filipinos may not be a healthful one. If they survive, they are to keep 40 percent of what they find, with the rest split between the government and the monks.—New York Herald Tribune

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