

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, WEDNESDAY, APRIL 2, 1952

Resources Survey Suggested

A highly interesting part of Hon. Mr. Darby's speech on the Budget was his reference to our potential resources, industrial and otherwise, and to the need of an up-to-date survey of the Province in this connection, utilizing Federal facilities and personnel as well as those available in the Provincial departments.

Mr. Darby appears to have been in error in stating that no geological survey of the Province has been made since 1883. Such a survey was made in 1948 and reported on in 1949 by Mr. G. C. Milligan for the Provincial Department of Industry and Resources. Its primary purpose was to locate industrial minerals and at the same time obtain some knowledge of the bedrock geology.

Recently, through Federal and Provincial co-operation, an excellent soil survey of the Province has been completed. There is no reason why similar co-operation would not be forthcoming in the survey Mr. Darby suggests, and why it might not be of great value if turned to practical account.

Canadian Literature Surveyed

A stimulating review of Canadian fiction and poetry, past and present, is given in a volume recently published by the Ryerson Press, Toronto. It is entitled "Creative Writing in Canada", the author being Dr. Desmond Pacey, head of the English department of the University of New Brunswick. At the outset he concedes that while Canada has produced a goodly number of talented writers, even her best—Lampman, Carman, Pratt, and Klein in poetry, Kirby, Grove, and Callaghan in the novel, and Haliburton and Leacock in prose humour—are, at the most charitable estimate, secondary figures on the world literary stage.

Of the various literary forms, poetry is the one in which our contribution has been most outstanding. Next in importance has been prose humour, Haliburton and Leacock being ranked as superior to any other Canadian writers of creative prose, with the possible exception of Frederick Philip Grove to whose stories of pioneer life a considerable amount of space is allotted.

Dr. Pacey's criticism of the average Canadian novel is that it is limited in scope either to the historical romance or the regional idyll. The result has been a mass of fiction which is, on the one hand, falsely glamorous and facetiously exciting, and, on the other, sentimental and oversweet. The nature of Canadian society, he suggests, has much to do with this. There have been no great domestic crises to arouse the national imagination. The War of 1812 was a secondary campaign which deeply affected only Ontario; the rebellions of 1837 were abortive minority movements; Confederation itself was a reluctant and hesitant adventure; the two Great Wars were fought far from our shores.

The short story has fared better than the novel, though it too has been inhibited by the same forces. No separate sections on Canadian drama are given "for the simple reason," as the author states, "that our output of dramatic writing has been almost negligible." Reference is made to the Little Theatre movement which almost completely collapsed under the impact of the economic depression, but which has been revived through the Dominion Drama Festivals initiated in 1933. In the last few years a number of promising plays have been written and introduced, but legitimate drama in Canada, even today, remains a very delicate growth.

It is regrettable that Dr. Pacey does not include in his survey of "creative" writers such noteworthy essayists as the late Sir Andrew Macphail, who ranks very high indeed in this field and who was surely en-

titled, at least, to a place in the index. The only Island writer mentioned is L. M. Montgomery, who is conceded to have produced a children's classic in "Anne of Green Gables" which achieved "a quaint, naive perfection that is fresh and charming still." Somewhat patronizingly, the author says it would be silly to apply adult critical standards to this work. "The tone throughout is that of pleasant whimsy, the didacticism is, for the most part, implicit and unobtrusive, and the sentimentalism a little less cloying than is usual in books of its type. There was never any doubt of its popularity. It had all the features of the kind of escape literature which a materialistic and vulgar generation craved. . . . Supreme Court justices unashamedly wept over it, and the heads of households were so eager to read it that their children hardly had a chance. It sold in the hundreds of thousands, and is still selling." Perhaps we ought to be grateful for that.

EDITORIAL NOTES

The Legislature this afternoon—debate on Budget resumes.

The Hospitals benefit by the new Budget by an increase to \$1 per bed.

An improvement is predicted in building supplies; let us hope that includes steel.

Borrowers of U. S. A. funds when the Canadian dollar was at a discount will be in clover now.

The teachers are to receive a much needed boost in their remuneration, though not as much as they hoped for.

Exhibitions are among the beneficiaries under Mr. Darby's budget, as also are the farmers generally through increased expenditures for departmental work.

Taken all in all Mr. Darby is to be congratulated on his Budget, especially as he provides for a surplus, and leaves the standing of the Province in the borrowing market at a high standard comparable with a wealthy province like Ontario.

An up-to-date bus service over the Island would give a tremendous boost to our tourist traffic, so many visitors without cars would be able to come, with their families, and see the sights and enjoy our climate and beaches with ease and pleasure.

Our export cheese market has disappeared, and our internal market has not yet been developed. A sad outlook for cheese factories. This is a case where the Federal Government should allow the product to find its own market level, and to discover whether a domestic market could not thereby be developed, before planning support.

The roads and bridges are the heaviest consumers of revenue, and the current year is to be no exception,—indeed heavier expenditure than usual is predicted. But no one grudges the spending of money with a view to road improvement, and development, and with the Trans-Canada Highway in the making, subsidiary roads demand greater attention.

Sir John Collings Squire, English author and critic, was born this date 1884. He was literary editor and later acting editor of the "New Statesman" and in 1919 he founded and edited the "London Mercury", a monthly magazine of literature and the arts. Some of his books are, "Socialism and Art", "The Grub Street Nights Entertainments" and "Water Music."

"There will be no new taxes" was the high-light in Provincial Treasurer Darby's budget address. He was congratulated by the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. R. R. Bell) on the clarity and effectiveness of his technical address on our monetary situation, though Mr. Bell admitted it would take time to study and analyse it for criticism. Mr. Bell resumed the task yesterday afternoon.

President Truman during his regime had the administration expend \$5,671,000 in renovation of White House, and had entered reoccupancy just on the eve of his announcement that he would not re-nominate. Some other one will reap where he has sown in providing comfort and conveniences in the seat of Government. Truman's study—the famous oval room—reflects soft green tones. The walls are light mint green, the wool rug is spruce green. The draperies are green satin embossed with gold stars. A crystal chandelier twinkles overhead. His bathroom is done in green tile. Truman recently told newspapermen that before the remodeling, he was afraid his tub would sink through the age-decayed floor, while he was taking a bath.

Designed To Make The Patient Feel Better



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.

POTATO LEGISLATION

Sir,—First reading has been given in the Legislature to "An Act to Amend the Plant Disease Eradication Act." This amendment changes the composition of the Potato Industry Promotion Committee, gives it power to license dealers and makes it an offence for farmers to have second hand potato or turnip bags in their possession. The committee in question was set up by the Government at the request of the potato growers and it might be pertinent to ask if the growers have been consulted in respect to the proposed changes and if they are in favor of them? Is it unreasonable to suggest that in a matter which affects the farmers closely they should have an opportunity of voicing their opinions on the act before it becomes law?

QUEEN'S COUNTY & OTTAWA

Sir,—With your kind permission I would like to make a few minor remarks through your Public Forum on some statements that "Independent Voter" has made concerning a recent letter from the Hon. Senator Grant. This big word "Independent" instead of a Christianized name or surname would have a tendency of standing out one's characteristic position that would probably attract admiration more rapidly than if signed by a supporter or non-supporter of our present Government. But nevertheless it should not be hard to conclude that he or she, according to words expressed, is strongly behind the Opposition in most cases than is necessary at the present time, when Communism is threatening our every day life. When, referring to a notable professional citizen like Dr. Grant, who has been elevated so many times in public places by an overwhelming majority of public opinion, undoubtedly it will take a billion of anonymous letters to destroy that well-established career as a true Christian Canadian, a British subject, his professional ability and an outstanding politician on Canadian rights and privileges for all concerned. While all those facts are so well known over our vast Dominion, some Canadians, I presume, would suggest that he should sell out his principles to assist Stalin behind his Iron Curtain. Those kind of mean insinuations might make a grave impression on our young readers and would be much better left to perish in the ink bottle. Dr. Grant's letter in your recent issue was not by any means dictatorial on his part. It was only a truthful suggestion from one who has remembered the past and has seen the repetition of the same situation happening in Queen's County on other occasions. When we had a Laurier Government at Ottawa, in Queen's County were unfortunate enough to have our members in the Opposition in the persons of MacLean and Martin. Then again under the Borden administration we sent up two great men of the past, the late John E. Sinclair and Harold Jenkins of Charlottetown. Now why should Senator Grant

Notes From Another Island

By "Anson"

LONDON, England:—"Money is the sinews of affairs" wrote Bion, a poet of ancient Greece; and as he dates from 2,000 years or more ago, perhaps his words constitute a convenient precedent, a sop to our conscience. If we feel particularly mercenary just now, for certainly money is very much in our minds at the present time. Doubtless it is natural, fed as we have been for the past few years on a wordy diet of dollars and sterling, but even those idealists who claim that "money isn't everything" have to admit that it has such a ubiquitous influence on us that it just cannot be ignored. Indeed, since so many of us have to live on a strictly controlled budget, we just cannot afford to ignore it; and it is unhappily true that the less money we have, the more important it becomes in a civilized community. Another complication has been not speak to his party in time to get their house-cleaning done and wake up in general all over, and send men to Ottawa in line with the times, especially when there are so many requests to be fulfilled, and when money and surplus are beyond figures? There was one time that Queen's County with its majority of wealth and population was considered the big frog in the puddle. But the Estimates were tabled in Ottawa this year afford proof plenty that there must be something wrong, when we are not getting our share of Federal projects in comparison with Prince and King's Counties which today are so ably represented by men in line and co-operating with the present administration. I am, Sir, etc., JOHN M. QUINN, 185 Prince Street, Charlottetown.

The Age-Old Story

Behold, I will make thee a new sharp threshing instrument having teeth: thou shalt thresh the mountains, and beat them small, and shalt make the hills as chaff. Thou shalt fan them, and the whirlwind shall scatter them: and thou shalt rejoice in the Lord, and shalt say in the Holy One of Israel.

Old Charlottetown

(And P. E. I.) OLD COINS EXCHANGED

When Prince Edward Island adopted the decimal system of currency it became necessary to exchange old money for new. How this was achieved in part is explained in a letter to the Lieutenant Governor-in-Council from the Hon. Joseph Pope, Colonial Treasurer, dated April 8, 1872.

BLUE BLOOD

We thought at first, this man is a king for sure, Or the branch of a mighty and ancient and famous lineage —That silly, sulky, illiterate, black-vised booby Who was hatched by foreign vulgarity under a hedge! The good men of Clare were drinking his health in a flood And gazing, with me, in awe at the princely lad; And asking each other from what bluest blueness of blood His daddy was squeezed and the pa of the da of his dad? We waited there, gaping and wondering, anxiously, Until he'd stop eating, and let the glad tidings out; And the slack-jawed booby proved to the hills that he Was loud, son of loud, by old loud, and was da to a loud! —James Stephens.

Move Made To Ease U.S. Dairy Import Ban

After long delay in the face of mounting protests from Canada and other countries, which were supported by the Truman Administration, specific action has finally been taken in the U.S. Congress to lift the tight restrictions imposed last August on imports of dairy products into the United States. The Senate banking committee has voted to recommend what amounts to a face-saving compromise, but one which should effectively revoke the virtual embargo, especially on cheese.

The Copenhagen dairies have decided to make their contribution to bringing art to the masses.

They have commissioned 20 well-known Danish artists to decorate 20 big gable walls in Copenhagen. The artists, who represent a variety of "schools", have been given a completely free hand to paint what serious thought to the problem of the distribution of wealth right in her own home. It is to be expected that when she finds her housekeeping costs soaring she will begin to take sidelong looks at any possible thickening of her husband's wage packet that results from his overtime pay. He would need a pretty strong Union backing to resist that kind of victimization! But I suggested earlier that we might be feeling particularly mercenary just now. Why just now? For the answer we need look no further than the calendar on the wall, and note the approach of April 5th, the end of the country's financial year. Everyone knows that this is the time for marriage; the June bride is out of touch with modern times, for common sense these days tells us to get married before the annual day of (financial) reckoning. Preferably just before, then the groom can claim a rebate on his tax for the whole of the previous year. And for those already married, still keep an eye on the date; if raising a family is what you want, have your baby now, before April 5th, and there's another let-off on your tax. "Money is the sinews of affairs" all right, even if that Grecian gentleman didn't quite have such mid-twentieth century angles on the situation!

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Notes By The Way

Seems incredible to note that Scottish homes recently used coal from India for the first time when domestic users on Clydeside were included in distribution of 9,000 tons.—Niagara Falls Review.

The Manitoba Legislature has decided by a large majority that it is not desirable to institute daily broadcasts of the proceedings on the Saskatchewan model. To justify such an innovation, involving no doubt considerable expenditure, it would seem necessary first of all to show that the existing channels of information are inadequate and secondly that the supposed advantages of the system outweigh any possible disadvantages. — Winnipeg Free Press.

Now that tobacco has become such an expensive luxury for the British smoker, many people are taking to snuff. An ounce of it, at any price from four shillings and sixpence, lasts an average snuffer two weeks, while four-and-six will buy little more than 25 cigarettes in Britain. The snuff most in demand today is the same brand as that which tickled the palates of the Regency, a mixture made from fermented tobacco that is prepared, sieved, sorted and then mixed by individual snuff merchants, who use secret recipes handed down for generations. — BBC Bulletin.

The interesting if matter-of-fact reports of the Ontario Department of Lands and Forests sometimes contain an element of tragedy. For instance the story of the waterfowl destroyed by Niagara Falls. Sleep traps the birds. Settling for the night on the quiet upper reaches of the river, they gradually drift down the stream. Their wings could lift them from danger in an instant, but in their heavy sleep they drift near the brink. Some awake in time, and fly away. Others hear the roar of the falls just as the sheet of green water turns downward. The feeble strength of the bird is useless to counter the downward rush. During the past Winter some scores of waterfowl have drowned in this strange manner. — Cornwall Standard-Freeholder.

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