

THE GUARDIAN

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CIRCULATION "Covers Prince Edward Island like the dew" "The strongest memory is weaker than the weakest ink."

CHARLOTTETOWN TUESDAY, DEC. 15, 1953

Is It Good News?

As yet no one seems to be in a position to say but the fact that Mr. Molotov has intimated that President Eisenhower's proposals will be given serious consideration by the Soviet Government is encouraging. While it may not mean very much in the long run it is certainly better than the summary and not particularly gracious comments which came from the Moscow radio the day after the speech was delivered.

Buy Or Rent?

Parliament has before it proposals for lowering the down-payment under the National Housing Act and at the same time providing for a long time in which to repay loans. The move is in line with the general policy of enabling as many as possible to buy or build their own homes.

It seems, however, that more emphasis could well be placed on the encouragement of rental building. After all a great many people do not particularly care to assume the responsibility of home ownership, particularly when it involves financial obligations extending over a substantial part of their lives.

A house-owner is seriously limited in his mobility. Opportunity may beckon away from his own locality but he must think twice about deciding to sell a house in which he has a substantial portion of his savings.

All this adds up to the fact that there is an important place for plentiful rental housing accommodation. Measures to make building for rent more attractive would rebound to the advantage of the individual and the nation.

Changing Farm Policies

A notable manifestation of the changes which have taken place in agriculture during the last quarter century, says The Country Guide, is the development of what is commonly called "farm policy". By this is meant, in large measure at least, government participation in national agricultural affairs. It is particularly significant that this development is not restricted by any means to Canada, or to this continent.

The fact that food is a vital necessity for every human being is basically responsible for this striking phenomenon of our time. A more immediate, but nevertheless fundamental, cause is the unrest, both political and economic, which has characterized most of the world since 1914.

by the democracies, including countries possessing limited monarchies, such as the United Kingdom, Belgium, Sweden and Norway. Here, in every case, the object is to combine, as well as may be, the interests of the producer, with those of the consumer of food.

In North America the growth of farm policy, as far as it relates to prices and markets, emerged from World War I, but took active form both in the United States and Canada, only after the financial debacle of 1929. It underwent a forced hot-house growth and development in the Thirties, but with the advent of World War II, became a more calculated, deliberate policy in this country.

"Many of us may now lament the necessity for government price programs and other aspects of farm policy," says Country Guide, "but few deny the necessity, including the governments themselves, or believe that we are likely ever to go back entirely to what is commonly called free enterprise. The reason, as someone has said, is that 'The dissenting opinions of one generation become the prevailing interpretation of the next.'"

EDITORIAL NOTES

Prince Edward Island Yorkshire hogs continue to add to their laurels. Now the United States, so long addicted to short heavy types, is turning to our breeding stock to form the foundation of modern breeds of long bacon-type swine.

Recent reports of fires are eloquent reminders that the provision of fire-fighting equipment is not enough to assure its effective use. The nearest persons at hand must be ready to act before a blaze gets well started and that means that everyone must be prepared for such emergencies.

Canada from east to west is pictured in a 224 page volume produced by the Ryerson Press for the Canadian Geographical Society. "Images of Canada" shows a dynamic country and people. It may well do more to make this country understood abroad than many volumes of comment.

Canada's Special Force for service in Korea is not quite disbanded. Five of the 10,000 remain members of that Force. About 7,000 accepted discharge and the remainder enlisted in the regular army.

Unless the world turns to uranium as a source of power, asserts a Norwegian scientist, the standard of living will gradually tend to drop in all countries. He pointed out that attempts to raise the standard of living are contingent on adequate supplies of power and that a notable shortage of new power sources would be felt within the next fifty years.

The Nova Scotia Centre of the Poetry Society has published volume three of the "Nova Scotia Book of Verse". Ninety-four poems are included in the 72-page booklet which has a distinctly salty air but which includes impressions of Old Home Week by Milton J. Acorn, formerly of Charlottetown entitled "The Homeland Fair."

Prince Edward Islanders have distinguished themselves in many fields, but it is indeed an outstanding recognition of scholarly attainments which has come to the Rev. Cuthbert A. Simpson, D.D., in his appointment as Canon of Christ Church and Regius Professor of Hebrew at Oxford University. Dr. Simpson's appointment will be learned with great interest and appreciation by his many Charlottetown friends.

Grigory Efimovich Rasputin, Russian monk and charlatan, died this date 1916. His father, a Siberian peasant, was said to have been nicknamed "Rasputin" or "ne'er-do-well-son." The son was an ignorant "holy man" of a sect that required sinning in order to obtain salvation by repentance. He became confessor to the Empress after apparently restoring the health of the heir to the Crown and acquired great and sinister influence. He was poisoned, shot and drowned.

Karsham Queries Again

Humorous cartoon strip featuring J. Quizmo Karsham, Dilton Dampwick, A. Floor-Pacer, Sagacious Q. Snort, and Ernest Swain and Dolly Young. Includes captions like 'DILTON DAMPWICK: "I'D HYPNOTIZE MYSELF TO SEE THE SUN SHINING ONCE IN AWHILE!"'

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.

LIQUOR AND LAW

Sir,—Is it not strange that liquor and law always go together? Is there something about liquor that requires law? It seems so. It seems that people cannot be trusted to have access to unlimited liquor without being hedged about by law.

Many people advocate, "Don't restrain people. Let them have all they want. Increase the out-lets and there will be less drunk-lets and less resulting trouble." Prohibition thus was cried down; and we have what really amounts to open sale and the result every one knows. I lived for twenty years in an East Indian village of 300 people. There were 5 rum shops. Most people drank more there were days when the whole village got drunk. Liquor was at every man's door, and one could get drunk on sixpence worth of rum.

Laws control theft, kidnapping, prostitution, but no set of laws ever devised can control liquor. In spite of all restraints liquor will be drunk to excess and evil consequences will follow. A good many believe that prohibition is the answer, a law to prohibit the sale and use of alcoholic liquor as a beverage. Today ten times as much liquor is used as under prohibition and ten times as much damage done. Of course, view of enforcement, conditions did become worse; but I can remember when one could go in and out of Charlottetown and Summerside all summer and not see a drunken man; but today the case is different. There is a spot in Charlottetown where it is strictly forbidden to "loiter" liquor is sold. On market days in the afternoon one can see there men are fond of liquor.

I know prohibition is a drastic measure. It goes against the grain of many people. It robs them of that liberty so dear to them. Yes, but suppose we think of it as a self-denial for a good cause, and it is a good cause. It is the greatest problem in the lives of some people. And it concerns the family. I know a home where tears are shed every week because of drink. It concerns the country at large. One accident will upset a whole community, causing life-long disability and sorrow. It is, indeed, a great cause. In this case self-denial becomes a noble act, done in the interest of a neighbour. Only when we live prompted by this motive will this great vexed problem be settled. If Paul were here he would most certainly be a prohibitionist. He would say: "I will take no drink while the world standeth lest I make my brother to offend."

I am, Sir, etc. W. I. GREEN. Stanley Bridge.

The Age Old Story

So also Christ glorified not himself to be made an high priest; but he that said unto him, Thou art my Son, today have I begotten thee. As he saith also in another place, Thou art a priest forever after the order of Melchisedec.

HISTORIC ISLAND

Iceland was an independent republic before it joined Norway in the 13th century.

Notes By The Way

As a cheering answer to the social observers who lament that because our troubles can be blamed on the fact that families don't plunge into activities as a unit, Senator Soaper offers the case of the Boston father, mother and son arrested in connection with an armoured car robbery. — Hamilton Spectator

In far too many instances the suggestion is advanced that because education to earn a living—most of them retiring from the ranks of employees or withdrawing from careers in favor of marriage—the money spent on their academic training is wasted. That opinion is not shared by sound educationists. They recognize the importance of the old maxim that the hand which rocks the cradle rules the world. The Mother, by common agreement, is potentially the greatest teacher in a child's life. The better she is equipped for her intellectual tasks, the more successful her job in raising the youngster. —Victoria Times

Is Canada to have 12 provinces? There is a movement afoot in northwestern Manitoba to have a new province created out of northwestern Saskatchewan and Alberta, and all of the Far North, including the Yukon and Mackenzie territories. The area would cover about 1,700,000 square miles, or roughly 40 percent of Canada's area. It would be known as the province of Precambria. Present population is about 100,000 people. And how come—Canada's 12th province? Come now! You have surely heard that Northern Ontario will be Canada's 11th province! —Sudbury Star

We have often wondered why waitresses and hostesses in restaurants take the menu card from patrons as soon as orders have been given. Wondered if it were a case of a general shortage in menu cards. We have just learned that the menu is taken from the customer as quickly as possible so as to minimize the chance of an order being changed and causing confusion in the kitchen. It is claimed that if the average woman for any length of time she is almost certain to change her mind about the order. That is why the menu is taken away from her. —Smith Falls Record-News

Reports of a major oil discovery have excited the population of Australia, as well they might. If the sands of northern Australia are found to cover oil fields, this could inaugurate a new era of development on that continent. In the modern economy a nation lacking oil, or at least easy access to sources of supply, is badly handicapped. Canada now is reaching the stage of selfsufficiency in oil, and we know what that means. But Canada never was in a similar position to Australia. We were able to buy what we needed from relatively near sources in the United States, or bring it by boat from South America. Australia has had to import her entire needs from the Middle East, a long haul. And, in event of war, she is in a vulnerable position if her supply lines could be cut. —Windsor Daily Star

Old Charlottetown

(And P. E. I.)

BREAKING THE ICE

"On Saturday morning last, our harbour was completely frozen over down to the Three Tides, the severe frost of the two days previous having fixed our winter bridge, and foot passengers were to be seen crossing the harbour in all directions. A fine new brig, laden with oats, and bound for New York, was frozen hard and fast in the ice half way down the harbour, and a large schooner, also laden with oats, bound for the same port, was lying at the head of Peaker's wharf. A tempting offer was made to the owners of the steamer 'Princess of Wales', to take these two vessels clear of the port. The offer having been accepted, steam was soon up, and the steamer started, ploughing up the ice in fine style, and in about three hours she had opened a channel to clear water, a distance of about two miles. She returned to the City, took in tow the schooner and then ran down the harbor opposite to the brig—a channel, in the meantime, having been broken up to the brig from the one opened up by the steamer—a tow line was made fast, and in a short time the steamer had both vessels clear of the harbor. "On Monday morning the steamer towed out another vessel about five miles into the Bay, forcing her way through the ice channel she had opened up the Saturday previous. The site was a very interesting one, and was witnessed by crowds from various points of observation. It was a novelty to see the steamer ploughing through the ice, and passengers running with all their might to pass the steamer before she broke up the road on which they had to cross to get over the river." —The Islander, Dec. 23, 1954.

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The Passing Scene

By Observer

NEWFOUNDLAND'S NOMENCLATURE

An editorial in last Saturday's Guardian entitled "Newfoundland Place Names" and quoting certain comments from the St. John's Evening Telegram interested me so much that I think I'll expatiate a bit on the subject. Some of my observations will be based on personal knowledge gained in travelling around the Newfoundland coast line, others on hearsay, and a few perhaps on my own imagination, such as it is. I doubt very much that any country in the world is as fascinating as Newfoundland in this matter of nomenclature. Some day somebody in a position to spend two or three years going around the Province and digging into all the facts and rumors will write a book on the subject and it will be worth reading. The wonder is that it hasn't been done long before this.

The first thing one has to remember in thinking about the intriguing pattern of Newfoundland place names is that the names for the most part evolved in and over a period when people were more imaginative and less exact in their day-by-day impressions than they are now. This, of course, was not peculiar to Newfoundland but it was amplified by the extreme isolation (always a help to imagination) in which the first settlers found themselves. I suppose that then, as now, some central authority decided on what a certain place should be called, but we may be sure that long before the issuing of any proclamation the people themselves had put their imaginations to work in the fashioning of a name. In most cases an official edict was simply a confirmation of an established custom.

Another thing to remember is that in Newfoundland there are a number of geographical terms which are unknown or at least scarcely ever used elsewhere although most of them are in the dictionary. Take the name "Leading Tickle" for example. This is quite a good sized fishing community in Notre Dame Bay on the North East coast. To the uninhabited it doesn't make sense. In Newfoundland, however, where everybody is initiated in such matters, a "tickle" is a small strait separating two islands or an island and the mainland. Once you know that, Leading Tickle presents no mystery.

So with "Arm". This signifies a small inlet running in from the sea. A small bay. There are scores of places where the word comes in including Joe Batt's Arm (Joe was probably the first settler), Middle Arm, Northern Arm, Southern Arm, "Bight" is the same as Arm, only smaller. Some, however, are bigger than others for there are Big Bights and Little Bights scattered all over. A "Gut" is a very narrow tickle.

Just why, I don't know (this is where diligent and patient research would come in), but "bay" is often used before the distinctive name. As before the distinctive name, of Malpeque Bay, Pownall Bay, and so on. In Newfoundland they speak of Bay Roberts, Bay De Verde, Bay St. George, Bay D'Espoir (commonly called "despair", a curious corruption of its proper meaning), and Bay Bulls. However, the orthodox procedure is also followed. Fortune Bay, Hermitage Bay, White Bay, etc.

It is in the field of poetic quaintness that the nomenclature enthusiast would find his "heart's desire" which, strange but true, (if I may borrow for a moment a favourite phrase of a distinguished contemporary) is the name of a small village on the East coast. Not to be confused are Heart's Content, Heart's Ease, Heart's Delight, all in the same general area. Then there is Come-By-Chance, a tiny spot hidden in the depths of a large bay. Only by chance would anyone ever get to it, and that may be the origin of the name. Seidom-Come-By in the North has a similar connotation. Apparently it was not in the lane of schooner traffic bound for the Labrador and other fishing grounds. Pushthrough on the South Coast is just that. The mail steamer must literally push through a very narrow strait—a "gut" to be exact—and a passenger on the deck can throw a stone to the rocks on either side.

Apart from the "Heart" series the prettiest name I have read of is Rose Blanche on the South West corner of the Island. For second place I nominate Fleur-de-lis in the extreme North and, for third place, Meadows on the West. There are some situations which seem to contain the obvious and the strange in about equal parts. The highest peak is called, naturally enough, Gaff Topsail. The village of Topsail ought to be there, but it isn't. It is 200 miles away and situated on low, level land. Foxtrap is near by. There are any number of questions related to Newfoundland nomenclature awaiting the skill and patience of the competent researcher. One of the more important is: How is it that there are practically no names commemorating the Beothuck (this word has many variations and I am not sure that this is the one in current use) occupation of the island before the white man came? In Maine, Michigan, Indiana, Ohio, Ontario, and all other sections of the continent where Indian communities once flourished, names of Indian origin are found in abundance. For some reason or other the idea did not take good root in Newfoundland.

The Poet's Corner

WILD GEESE

In triangles the gathering geese filing through The curve of heaven; their high metallic cries Converging with shouts of skating children climb The windy horizontals of the sky Pulled by the promise of some Arctic April. Trailing the salt of wild and lonely marshes From quills conceived for thrust To wing the planes of morning. Like lifting arrows to the sun's most northern shining. While eagles watch from rims of mountain eyes. While inner tension like a line of light Draws the measurable base, defines the flight. —Laura Lake in The American Scholar.

SEEK END HOLIDAY

St. Catharines, (CP)—The board of education has decided to send a resolution to the Ontario department of education asking that Remembrance Day, Nov. 11, be stored as a regular school attendance day. Trustee Lloyd Goodwin said its observance by children is hindered rather than helped by granting a school holiday, which in addition resulted in the loss of valuable school time.

STEEL PRODUCERS

The tiny Grand Duchy of Luxembourg exports iron and steel products to many countries.

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