

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, TUESDAY, DEC. 23, 1952

Level Crossing Menace

Transport Minister Chevrier has informed the House of Commons that a study has been made by the Government of the question of further protection at level crossings, and he expressed the hope that before long he would have something concrete to place before Parliament on this important subject.

As federal taxpayers, notes the Ottawa Citizen, the people of Canada put up \$1,000,000 a year for the protection and elimination of railway level crossings. As municipal taxpayers, they pay out further sums, depending on what specific projects are afoot. As customers of the railways, they contribute indirectly still further sums. Yet it is obvious from the appalling accident record at these death traps that they must be prepared to pay a great deal more. Road traffic is increasing, and many thousands of rail-crossings still remain wholly unprotected—meaning there are no gates, or flashing lights, or other devices.

It is fanciful to expect a complete removal of this hazard in the foreseeable future, for there are more than 32,000 level crossings in Canada, and barely 10 per cent of these are guarded by any protective device. What is possible, however, is a more determined attack on the worst danger spots. In thickly populated areas, grade separation by means of subways or overpasses is the logical approach to the problem. But this method is extremely expensive, and in many cases the municipalities that stand to benefit have difficulty in finding their share of the cost.

The Transport Minister did not say whether he has in mind simply increasing the size of the Grade Crossing Fund. This would be a progressive step, but it would not solve the problem of a municipality that cannot afford to enter the scheme as the present law requires. As matters stand, the Federal Government pays up to 40 per cent of the cost of a project approved by the Board of Transport Commissioners, and the rest is shared by the municipality and the railway company concerned.

Coupled with any improved plans to cope in a physical way with the level crossing problem, concludes The Citizen, a campaign to promote safer driving habits is clearly required. Less has been done in either direction in Canada than in the United States. In the U. S., the level crossing accident curve has begun to dip down at last. Here it is still climbing.

Seaweed, Chemicals

Further development of the Irish moss industry would benefit this Province materially, and it is to be hoped that this will result from the recent opening of a Maritime Regional Laboratory at Halifax by the National Research Council. One of the tasks of the new laboratory will be to study conditions of seaweed growth and chemical composition. Another problem will be to find suitable methods of extracting the alginic acid. Irish moss will receive a great deal of attention from the research men. Methods of extraction of the basic chemicals are under investigation, and susceptibility to bacterial decomposition will be determined. The nutritional value of sea plants to the soil and to farm animals as well as to man will be given scientific study so that a firm basis of knowledge may be constructed on which a larger industry may be built.

Situated on the campus of Dalhousie University, the new research building has about 40 rooms, 20,000 square feet of floor space and a small pilot plant. At present the laboratory employs a professional and technical staff of 30. With the opening of the new Naval Research Establishment of the Defense Research Board, and the presence of the Atlantic Experimental Research Board, Halifax promises to become one of Canada's leading research centres.

As we know, since 1940 Irish moss has been actively harvested in the Maritimes, and a total of between one and three million pounds of dried moss have been collected and exported each year. This represents about 4,000 tons of wet weed, with a value of around half a million dollars. Most of the moss comes from Prince Edward Island and Nova Scotia. Probably the most prolific beds of rockweed in the world are to be found around the shores of the Maritime Provinces.

In an article on the subject in the current issue of "Canadian Business," it is stated that the seaweed industry dates from

1720, when the product was first burned for its ash content of soda and potash. It was known as "kelp" and was used in the manufacture of soap and glass, until largely displaced in 1840 by a process of making soda from common salt. However, the presence of iodine in relatively high concentration in seaweeds and the discovery of its medical importance combined to revive the industry as a commercial source for this element. This continued until about 1874 when a cheaper source of iodine was obtained.

Organic extractives which have special properties revived interest in the seaweed industry in the twentieth century. The production of agar was a Japanese monopoly until about 1939. Several species of red seaweed in different parts of the world serve as sources for this manufacture. It is used as a gelling agent in the food industry, in the pharmaceutical trade and in bacteriology. Japan produces about six million pounds of agar annually, and retails it at about \$5 a pound. About 70 different species of seaweed are used in Japan for food and other purposes. The total value of the annual crop of seaweeds in the U. S. is about ten million dollars, in Scotland about three million and in Japan more than six million.

Tax Relief

A little relief and a good deal more equity in the impact of income tax is asked by the Canadian Chamber of Commerce in a brief submitted by its executive council to Finance Minister Abbott and Revenue Minister McCann. The relief, in particular, is the proposal that government increase medical expense deductions by applying the floor of 4 per cent to the income after personal deductions, rather than to the total income. This would give general relief, although a reduction in percentage would accomplish the same thing and mean the same to those with or without dependents.

The brief also urges: Equality of taxation of all business enterprises regardless of ownership; complete elimination of double taxation of corporate earnings; tax allowances for those who make their own provision for retirement in the same measure as for contributions to approved pension plans; and also that the stated intention to avoid levies on capital gains be given effect in all cases.

There is much to be said for these proposals from the point of view of setting up a consistent tax structure. As long, however, as taxation is used as a means of promoting social policy appeals for uniformity will necessarily fall on deaf ears. In the case of double taxation of corporate earnings the logical argument is unanswerable but it is highly unlikely that any government will give up a lucrative source of revenue such as that provided by taxing companies as well as their shareholders, particularly as companies do not exercise the franchise.

These things have a way of balancing themselves out. If the proposals are accepted the public and employees will find means of sharing in the relief enjoyed by the companies as they will also share in the increased taxes necessary to make up the loss of revenue.

EDITORIAL NOTES

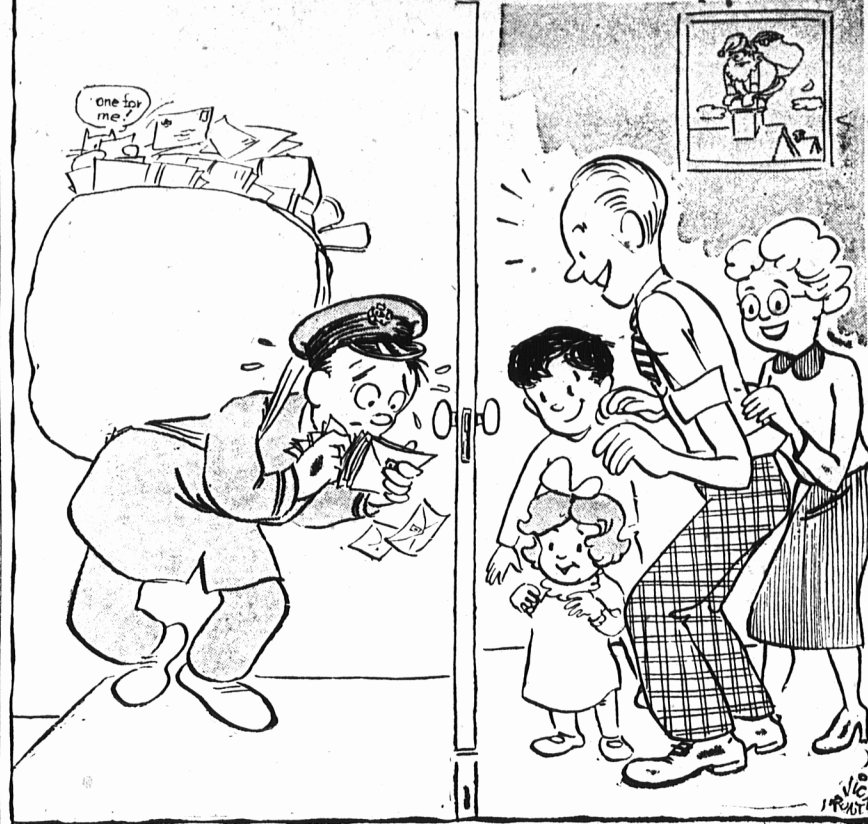
Christmas Eve and Old Year Day will be half-holidays for Federal civil servants under a ruling by the Cabinet yesterday. As Boxing Day is already a holiday there is only Saturday morning between them and a very long week-end indeed.

Schools and colleges have released youngsters to enjoy a well earned holiday. Many others, long since out of school, have managed to return to their families for the Christmas season. Home-coming is perhaps one of the most pleasant traditions connected with the observance of Christmas.

Thomas Robert Malthus, British political economist, died this date 1834. He was a pupil of Richard Graves and Gilbert Wakefield and afterwards distinguished himself at Cambridge in classics and mathematics. He entered the church and wrote on economic subjects. His famous and ferocious essay on population was generally accepted as economic truth until quite recent times and inspired Darwin to enunciate his theory of natural selection.

The disconcerting report by newspapermen visiting a British Columbia prison farm is largely useless if we think of it as telling only of conditions in that particular prison. There can be no doubt that similar conditions could be found in greater or less degree in prisons in any Province. A useful function is performed by the grand jury system by which members of the pupils are in duty bound to make a personal visit to such institutions.

The Two Sides Of It GREETINGS AND ALL THAT!



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.

"CHRISTMAS JOY"

Sir.—The universal joy of Christmas is certainly wonderful. We ring the bells when princes are born, or toll a mournful dirge when great men pass away. Nations have their Red Letter Days, their carnivals and festivals, but once in the year, and only once, the whole world stands still to celebrate the Advent of Life. Only the Divine Babe of Nazareth claims world-wide undying remembrance. You cannot cut Christmas out of the calendar, nor out of the heart of the world. Because of our belief in the divinity of Him who was born so long ago, under such strange circumstances as the Gospel narrates, the feast of Christmas remains in a category all of its own; no matter how sorrow and depression beset our lives, or how loudly the guns of war may roar or the sound of marching feet may re-echo along the highways of battle; so long as the light of Christian faith and love for God glows steadily "amid the encircling gloom", nothing can rob Christmas of its power to assuage the hidden miseries of the human heart.

I am, Sir, etc. P. A. ARSENAULT Teacher. Tignish Shore, R.E.I.

Old Charlottetown (And P. E. I.)

NEWS OF YESTERDAY

From The Daily Examiner, April 29, 1881: "Mr. J. M. MacLeod is now fitting up his old grocery store, at the corner of Queen and Grafton Streets, and will remove into it in a short time. He will build a large warehouse at the west side and will extend his shop into it about 20 feet, which will make his store one of the largest and most conveniently situated grocery stores in the city. Yesterday a sensation was created over the reported discovery of a treasure by one of the laborers while excavating in the rear of the store. The 'treasure' will, in a few days, be like Mahomet's Coffin, suspended—not between heaven and earth but between Pownall and Queen Squares. It would be well for the Market Committee to consider this matter carefully, and locate the hay market in the most convenient place possible. "Blake's stall, in the market today, contained some extra fine beef. The carcass of a steer, fed by Hon. John Longworth, weighed live 1,005 lbs., dead, 990 lbs., and a heifer reared by Hon. J. H. Peters, three years old, gave 670 lbs. of splendid meat. "Mr. Norman Campbell, of Dartington, is fast gaining a high reputation as a breeder of good horses. Every year, for the last three years, he has sold a valuable horse to Mr. William Bagnall. In 1879 one Clyde, for \$200, in 1880 one Stockman, for \$160, and in 1881, one blood mare for \$170. The horses which he keeps are said to be beauties. "Messrs. R. W. Tremaine and Jonathan Metcalf announce the dissolution of their partnership under the firm name of Tremaine and Metcalf, the business, heretofore carried on at 83 Queen Street, to be conducted under the name of R. W. Tremaine. ROME, Dec. 22.—(Reuters)—Polish authorities have arrested the Roman Catholic archbishop of Krakow, Mgr. Eugenio Zak, usually well-informed Vatican sources reported tonight.

Christmas in the Olden Time

From "Marmion": by Sir Walter Scott

Heap on more wood!—the wind is chill; But let it whistle as it will, We'll keep our Christmas merry still. Each age has deemed the newborn year The fittest time for festive cheer, Even, heathen yet, the savage Dane At Jol more deep the mead did drain; High on the beach his galleys drew, And feasted all his pirate crew; Then in his low and pine-built hall, Where shields and axes decked the wall, They gorged upon the half-dressed steer; Caroused in seas of sable beer; While round, in brutal jest, were thrown The half-gnawed rib and marrow-bone; Or listened, all in grim delight, The while Scalds yelled out the joys of fight. Then forth in frenzy would they die, While wildly-loose their red locks fly; And, dancing round the blazing pile, They make such barbarous mirth the while As best might to the mind recall The bolst'rous joys of Odin's hall. And well our Christian sires of old Loved when the year its course had rolled, And brought blithe Christmas back again With all its hospitable train. Domestic and religious rite Gave honour to the holy night; On Christmas eve the bells were rung; On Christmas eve the mass was sung; That only night, in all the year, Saw the stoled priest the chalice rear. The damsel donned her kirtle shewn; The hall was dressed with holly green; Forth to the wood did merry men go, To gather in the mistletoe. Then opened wide the baron's hall To vassal, tenant, serf, and all; Power laid his rod of rule aside; And Ceremony doffed her pride. The heir, with roses in his shoes, That night might village partner choose. The lord, undergating, share The vulgar game of "post and pair." All hailed with uncontrolled delight, And general voice, the happy night That to the cottage, as the crown, Brought tidings of salvation down. The fire, with well-dried logs supplied, Went roaring up the chimney wide; The huge hall-table's oaken face, Scrubbed till it shone, the day of grace.

The Age-Old Story

Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new. And all things are of God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ, add hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation.

FOUNDED IN 1888 The National Geographic Society was founded in 1888 for the increase and diffusion of geographic knowledge.

FRENCH COMPANY The company of the West Indies was created in May, 1864 by Louis XIV to expand France's colonial trade.

Your Possessions The things you live with—your home, your business, your "stock in trade"—are all subject to loss through accident or circumstances beyond your control. For your own sense of security, you should learn how easily you can be protected. We will be glad of an opportunity to serve you. HYNDMAN & CO. LTD. Insurance Since 1872. Offices: CHARLOTTETOWN - SUMMERSIDE - MONTAGUE Agents throughout the Province.

The Passing Scene

By Observer SOME CHRISTMAS THOUGHTS

Voltaire, the French philosopher, once said that if there were no God it would be necessary to invent one. We may use something of the same thought in connection with Christmas for there are many things in life which only the truths associated with Christmas seem able to explain. One of these things is the emphasis on peace in a world which for some considerable time now has been girded for war. Anyone who reads newspapers or listens to radio does not need to be told that conflict or threat of conflict, not peace, is at the centre of things in our day. In fact, with brief intermissions now and then, that has been the situation for as long as we have any record. And yet, for some reason, the hope that peace will some day control the nations never seems to die completely.

In the most dangerous hours there is something in the human heart that gives assurance of ultimate peace. It can scarcely be called a natural deduction for the available evidence is against it. You just cannot argue from experience or even from logic that "everything is going to come out right". Frankly there is no precedent for it. In the face of this it is nothing less than marvelous that men keep on hoping and even planning for a brave new world, whether this brave new world be thought of as including peoples and nations of only as embracing men and women in little communities. If there were no Christmas ideals and hopes the return of man to the jungle would appear right and proper or, at any rate, inevitable. If Christmas did nothing else but check the ferocious tendencies of the bitter facts of experience it could still be numbered among the ennobling institutions of mankind. In "The Bells of Christmas" Longfellow puts in beautiful verse what may be called the action and the reaction of souls caught in and delivered from perplexity occasioned by the evidence of things around them.

"And in despair I bowed my head; There is a Peace on earth, I said, For hate is strong and mocks the song Of peace on earth, good will to men. Then pealed the bells more loud and deep, God is not dead, nor does he sleep! The wrong shall fall, the right prevail, With peace on earth, good will to men!"

While it is true, of course, that Christmas proclaims a world message, it also seems to localise the really important things of life. Peace, for instance. We are apt to think of it in terms of world power politics. That is natural enough in view of the fact that war is a universal scourge, especially in this age. Peace among the nations is certainly a necessity if human life is ever to fulfill its proper destiny. But, it is not the only kind of peace that matters and, in fact, the peace that

Christmas symbolizes is only remotely, if at all, concerned with world affairs. Its primary emphasis seems to be on relations between one man and another or between one family and another. When a certain woman asked Charles Spurgeon what she could do to help along the cause of world missions he told her to go home and make it a better place for those in it. And it may be presumed, I suggest, that the "peace on earth" we sing about at Christmas time must begin where we are if it is to have any mate force in the larger sphere of the world.

Peace, if it is to have any meaning at all, is not an issue to be resolved by world chancelleries or pacifist among nations. It is rather an issue to be resolved by individual men and women as they go about their daily work and engage in normal human relationships. The "things that war against the soul" are, basically, the things that hurt. A well known sceptic says that "it is a less doubtful that time is on the side of the good and righteous". So, indeed, it often seems. The fact is that all through the story of man truth has had to fight every inch of the way and often it has been at a disadvantage. The apparent futility of trying to preserve order in a disordered world of man's own making has often brought a feeling of despair even to the minds of those who in their hearts believe in the supremacy of good. In such a dark picture the message of Christmas comes with a bright light of hope, and it is all the brighter because of its simple, quiet approach—brought by a little child in His mother's arms. Wrote Tennyson: "Oh yet we trust that somehow good will be the final goal of ill To puns of nature, sins of will, Defects of doubt and taints of blood; That nothing walks with aimless feet, That not one life shall be destroyed Or cast as rubbish to the void, When God hath made the pile complete".

Hope has always been under siege. According to the Gospel story, no sooner had the angels sung their hymn than the forces of scepticism and despair set about to discredit the good news it brought. Yet, strangely, hope is never quite extinguished. More strangely still, sometimes it seems to thrive and even grow a bit under the stress and strain of long delay. There is plenty of ugliness in the world, God knows, but Christmas comes to say that after all there is much beauty, too. And on the few occasions we can get away from earth-bound things, our souls cry out in sympathy with Studdert-Kennedy, the poet who refused to be embittered by any process of disillusionment. "I bet my life on beauty, Not abstract, but incarnate truth; Not beauty's passing shadow, but its self, Its very self made flesh".

PROFESSIONAL CARDS Matheson, Peake & Nicholson A. W. MATHESON, Q.C. A. H. PEAKE, B.A., LL.B. JOHN P. NICHOLSON, LL.B. Barristers, Etc. Collections of Money To Loan 90 Great George Street Charlottetown MacPhee & Trainor H. F. MACPHEE, B.A., Q.C. K. SOMERLETT TRAINOR, B.A. Barristers, Etc. Palmer & Haslam A. J. HASLAM, B.A., LL.B. BARRISTER, ETC. Bank of Nova Scotia Chambers Charlottetown, P. E. I. MONEY TO LOAN Allison M. Gillis, LL.B. BARRISTER, SOLICITOR, ETC. 180 Richmond St. - Charlottetown Phone 890 Dr. A. L. MacIsaac DENTIST Dental X-Ray GLORIA BUILDING 179 Grafton St. Phone 291 J. A. Carruthers, R.O. OPTOMETRIST 123 Kent Street Phone 2872 (Next to Simpson's Agency) A. Walthen Gaudet, LL.B. BARRISTER, SOLICITOR, ETC. Phillips Building 111 Grafton Street Money to Loan Collection Bell, Mathieson & Foster Barristers, Solicitors, Etc. R. B. BELL, Q.C. G. B. FOSTER, LL.B. Loans on City and Farm Properties 180 Richmond Street Charlottetown, P.E.I. H. R. DOANE & COMPANY CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS 145 Great George St., Charlottetown Phones 2680 - 1447 - Box 247 RANDOLPH W. MANNING, C.A. - ERMA P. MACPHERSON, C.A. Other offices at Halifax, Moncton, St. John's, Amherst, Dartmouth, Kentville, Liverpool, New Glasgow and Truro. McDONALD, CURRIE & CO. CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS Montreal, Quebec, Ottawa, Toronto, Saint John, Sherbrooke, Vancouver, Kirkland Lake, Moncton, Hamilton, Edmonton, Charlottetown, Currie Bldg., Charlottetown. Telephone 1638