

THE GUARDIAN

Authorized as Second Class Mail Post Office Department, Ottawa. The Island Guardian Publishing Co. Editor and Managing Director, 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 THURSDAY, OCT. 22, 1953 Public Utility Employees

Any doubt as to the applicability of the Trade Union Act to employees of public utilities is resolved by the Bill now before the Legislature which specifically mentions them in a proposed amendment and provides special conditions for the settlement of their disputes. The Bill, which incorporates regulations already in force and introduces the special provisions for public utility employees, is made retroactive to November 17, 1952.

A notable innovation is that trade unions may sue and be sued, making them, it would seem, a corporation for certain purposes although without limitation of liability. The Provincial Secretary shall when requested take steps to determine whether a union is the choice of the majority of employees as their bargaining agent. By registering, the trade union is deemed to have made a "submission" under the Arbitration Act agreeing to present future differences to arbitration. A strike vote must be taken under the supervision of the Provincial Secretary and under conditions determined by him.

In the case of public utilities the award of the arbitrators is reviewed in a public hearing by the Public Utilities Commission augmented by two members appointed for the purpose. That body has full power to approve or vary the findings of the arbitrators and to determine whether the award represents a prudent expenditure of the funds of the utility. As in other Commission questions an appeal lies to the Supreme Court in banco.

The principal effect of the bill would seem to be to make the Public Utilities Commission the main authority on labour matters so far as the industries subject to its control are concerned. The existence of a further right of appeal would presumably serve only to insure that the Commission carries out its duties in a proper manner.

Interest Groups

Surprisingly enough, the president of the Canadian Federation of Agriculture and the financial editor of the Toronto Globe and Mail see eye to eye on the matter of lobbying at Ottawa and elsewhere. They do not agree on particular policies of the Federation but they do on differentiating between the concept of "pressure groups" and that of "interest groups".

It is no doubt desirable, says that paper, for labour, employers, agriculture, processors, consumers, business, manufacturers and producers of various kinds to organize along their respective lines in order to express more effectively whatever happens to be each group's views and to take measures to advance them.

The warning is added, however, that it has been very evident in recent decades that there have been contests for control of many of these organizations and that the result has, in a number of cases, been that very smart men have gained control by playing up their usefulness in securing gains at the expense of the community or by inducing government to over-rule sound market procedure.

The pressure tactics which are used to attain these ends are roundly condemned by both. The interest group, admits Mr. Hansen, "could function in such a way as to be detrimental to the general welfare, firstly, if the general level of information and social-mindedness of the membership is relatively low; secondly, if the leadership does not properly reflect the general level of enlightenment of the membership of the group, or thirdly, if the general level of enlightenment and social-mindedness of the whole group—members and officers—does not inspire a measure of responsibility towards the general welfare proportionate to their influence and power."

The conclusion seems to be that an "influence group" is one whose methods and objects are approved or at least respected, while a "pressure group" is regarded as using illegitimate means of promoting indefensible objectives.

Russia's German Prisoners

During the recent war, some millions of Germans—men, women and children—were captured by the Russian armies and taken to Russia. Large numbers of German soldiers were captured by the Allied armies in western Europe, Africa and elsewhere. Here in Canada we held, at one time, many thousands of these prisoners. Long ago, the German prisoners in this

and other western countries were returned to their native land. So well were they treated that quite a few of them have since returned to Canada as immigrants. Always, from the moment of their capture, they were reported to their home people.

It is typical of the inhuman materialism of Communism that the Communist dictatorship of Russia did not regard captives as human beings but as animals. Some millions of Germans vanished into the maw of Communist Russia. As to their fate, there has been no word except for the handful of prisoners which were returned to freedom a few days ago. As a part of the Russian campaign to placate the hostility of the German people in Eastern Germany, the Soviet Government has undertaken to return some 12,750 prisoners. These apparently are all the German prisoners that Russia now possesses. What became of the great multitude, nobody seems to know. To a Christian that will be an appalling statement. Yet given the Communist point of view which rejects the kinship of man with God and thereby refuses to place man above the beasts, there is no cause for surprise.

The first 1,558 of these prisoners, all of whose incarceration dated from 1944 or earlier, were released in Eastern Germany late in September—mostly they were soldiers. But among them were 22 women and 16 youngsters. The London Times staff correspondent at Berlin writes: "The yearning of these returned prisoners of war for complete freedom was such that even those who had relatives in Eastern Germany preferred to go to West Berlin or the Western Federal German Republic."

EDITORIAL NOTES

Hunter's Moon.

Cyril Argentine Alington, dean of Durham, was born this date 1872. He was headmaster at Shrewsbury and author of numerous works including: "A Schoolmaster's Apology", "Eton Fables", "Why We Read The Old Testament", "The Abbott's Cup", "Poets At Play" and "In Shabby Streets."

In future accumulated holiday pay and any gratuity paid to an employee on separation will not prevent him from receiving unemployment insurance benefits. Pay in lieu of notice, however, remains a bar until the period represented by the pay has expired. The new regulations, although not easy to administer, should prove particularly beneficial to employees who have given high satisfaction and lose their employment through no fault of their own.

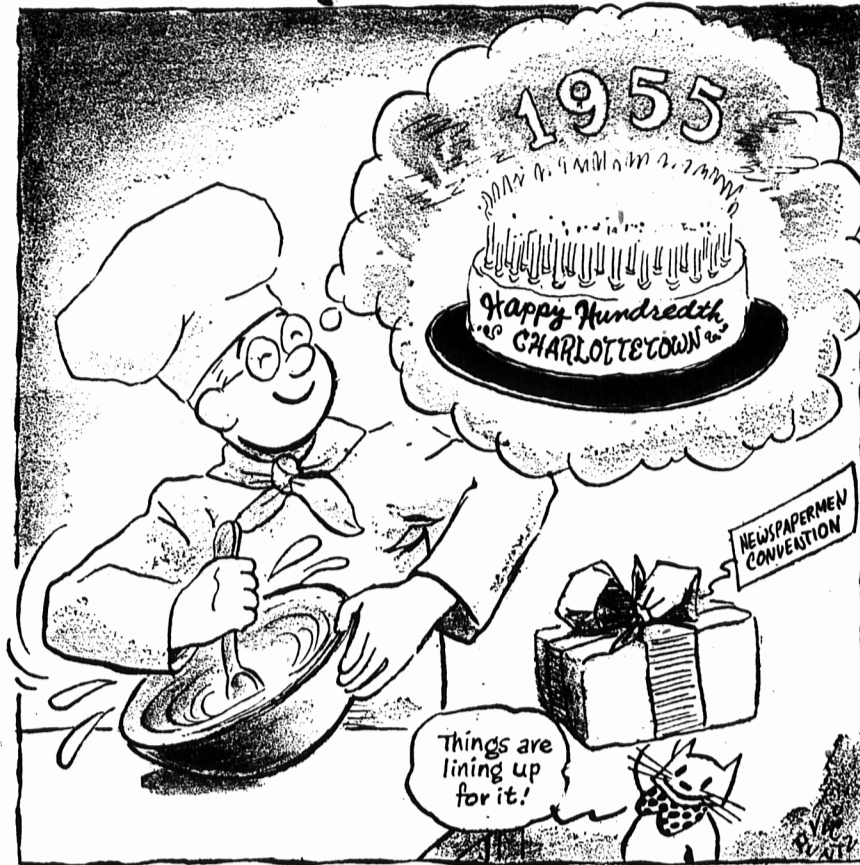
The "new deal" proposed for Newfoundland fishermen at a cost of something like \$100,000,000 over a ten-year period may well have as revolutionary an effect on the diet of Canadians as on the lives of the fishermen concerned. Provided the plan is effectively administered, high quality seafood should be available all over the continent. The market thus established should prove a real advantage to the industry in this Province, provided we are organized ready to match the Newfoundlanders in quality production.

While the coal industry is almost desperately looking for markets a scientist has criticised existing use of coal to produce heat and power, on the grounds that coal contains useful chemicals. Dr. David Keys, head of Canada's Chalk River atomic project claims that this country's entire electrical needs could be supplied by 2 1/2 tons of uranium and that atomic power for industry will be available within ten years. The point is well taken, but the coal interests will be more concerned than ever to find uses for their product before they have to meet such competition.

Regardless of politics, our people will extend a cordial welcome to the Hon. Robert Winters, Federal Minister of Public Works, who is scheduled to address the Queen's County Liberal Association meeting here this evening. Mr. Winters is no stranger to Prince Edward Island, but this is his first visit since assuming his present portfolio. It is to be hoped that as a result, the long-delayed project of a Federal Public Building for Charlottetown will get under way. The Government has already acquired the site at considerable expense, and no doubt the Minister will go thoroughly into the situation on the present occasion.

While Australia has succeeded in destroying ninety per cent of her rabbit pests by infecting them with myxomatosis through the mosquito, European bacteriologists and veterinarians are trying to stop a similar epidemic which has broken out in France and prevent it from spreading to other countries. The reason for the differing attitude is that the rabbit costs Australia close to \$500,000,000 annually while in France the rabbit, wild and tame, is worth \$360,000,000 in revenue from food and fur. The natural enemies that keep down the rabbit population in Europe are not present "down under".

Not To Mention Auto Men And Others



The Poet's Corner

AUTUMN MEASURE

Here in your heart the golden half-notes flowing Through the still wood, the flame of scarlet flying Over the hills; green rest of valley lying Between the storms of coming and of going. Touch with your thoughts this music of time's making— Oh, wisely touch the sadness and the laughter— With full crescendo coming richly after The storm, the dissonance and the forsaking. Now in this day of mist, of grey wings turning The year's torn page, true hand will know the gleaming Of star and seed; unerringly the Of life's chorale will sing through autumn's burning.

—Glean Douglas

Old Charlottetown (And P. E. I.)

POTATOES FOR SEED "We were shown on Tuesday at Archibald McNeill's auction room a very fine-looking example of potatoes from the farm of Alex. Smith, Esq., Pownal, Lot 49. In the spring of 1877 Mr. Smith received from his son, at Vancouver Island, British Columbia, 4 lbs. of these potatoes which he planted, the product of which he again planted in the spring of 1878, from which he had a yield this fall of about 1,500 bushels which are now offered for seed. "This potato is called the 'Royal Adelaide' is white, entirely free from disease or rot, is of choice cooking quality and very productive, as shown by the above statement. Mr. Smith has shipped 100 boxes of the 'Royal Adelaide' to Liverpool, England, by the 'Prince Edward', feeling confident that they will meet with ready and remunerative sale in the home market." —The Examiner, Dec. 10, 1879.

The Age Old Story

In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth... And there was light. And God saw the light, that it was good; and God divided the light from the darkness.

GOLFER'S HANDICAP SIOUX LOOKOUT, Ont. (CP)—Ravens are a new hazard on the local golf course. Roy McMillan drove a new ball over a slight rise and followed, just in time to see a large raven snatch the ball and fly away with it.

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Notes By The Ways

A pediatrician points out that the youngest child in a family gets all the disease the older ones bring home from school. On top of clothes and shoes, reach-me-down germs.—Hamilton Spectator. —The world's first "pollen factory" has been opened in Sweden where pollen will be collected and turned into vaccines for treatment of allergy victims. Judging by the pollen count here this Summer, the Swedish firm might well consider opening a branch plant in Cornwall.—Cornwall Standard-Freeholder. —Asdic, a radio beam device used by Britain's Royal Navy during World War I to detect enemy submarines, is to be used to locate whales in the Antarctic this Winter. An Edinburgh firm is equipping 22 of its whaling ships with Asdic sets and will employ operators with wartime experience, who, before setting sail for South Georgia, will attend a refresher course and learn whaling technique.—This Week in Britain. One man on the staff of this newspaper likes to walk—really walk, that is, for 20 miles or so at a stretch—and quite often while he is striding around the countryside on a Sunday he meets people who make it quite plain that they think he's crazy. He isn't. He is enjoying a simple pleasure that they have either forsaken or never learned. For one thing he is not afraid to do something which is not fashionable if he enjoys doing it. But he doesn't make a show of his non-conformity. He doesn't say: "Look at me, I'm walking," he just walks.—An editorial for young people.—Hamilton Spectator.

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The Passing Scene

By Observer LORD BEAVERBROOK AND LORD TENNYSON There is nothing original in Lord Beaverbrook's recent statement, as reported by the press, that the United Nations should be abandoned. The noble lord is simply repeating what a lot of other people—some in high places—have been saying all along. Several United States congressmen, of more or less national influence, have stated openly that, so far as the American people are concerned, they would be much better off if they had nothing whatever to do with the United Nations. The whole thing, they say, is a waste of time and money. The importance of the Beaverbrook statement stems from the fact that it comes from one who probably has more influence in British newspaper circles than any other single individual. There are plenty of people in England, and elsewhere, who do not see eye to eye with Lord Beaverbrook in political matters, but his opinions, as reflected in his widely circulated papers, can hardly be ignored. The question arises whether in this particular instance he is giving articulate expression to a sentiment which is becoming more and more popular in England. If this be the case, the prospects for the United Nations Organization's continuing as a permanent moral force in the political world are not too bright. It appears unlikely that the United Nations Organization expected it to be a cure-all for the world's ills. Most of them were too well versed in world history to harbour any such illusion. They acted simply in response to the universal hope, which always seems to come to the fore at the end of a war, that something positive might be attempted to outlaw war. There would still be national prejudices, racial antagonisms, and ideological differences, for these do not respond readily to legal decree or fiat. But no doubt it was felt that by mutual discussion and forbearance, within the framework of a common character, some of the sting and bitterness could be taken out of them. After all, if you have a neighbour who is inclined to be a bit cantankerous in his manner, it helps if you and he can get together from time to time to explore the possibilities of cordiality. No one is in a position to say with certainty that the U.N. has stopped a major war from breaking out or even that its action in the Korean situation did much to justify its existence. If there had been no such organization it is possible that the aggressive measures of the North Koreans and their allies would have been challenged by the same nations who

in fact found themselves involved under the U.N. directive. And there is no sense in trying to minimize the fruitless debates, frustrations, confusions, and failures in certain specific matters, that have featured sessions after session of the U.N.O. Assembly. Allowing for all this it must be admitted that the organization has some things to its credit, and some of the more creditable ones are those which do not ordinarily make the headlines. But more important, perhaps, than the things it has done are the things for which it stands. So long as it can manage to survive—whatever its limitations—the hope on which it was founded will have at least a fighting chance of being realized. To abandon it now would appear to be a gesture of despair. Hope is never entirely lost until it is deliberately given up. Perhaps in another ten years, or twenty, if it can keep alive so long, the U.N.O. will have a more cheerful countenance. It is well and good to recall that about a hundred years ago a great poet, who never gave up hoping for a new and better world, "dipped into the future, far as human eye could see, saw the Victor of the world, and all the wonder that would be." Lord Tennyson was, in fact, a first-rate seer. His dream of mid-20th century aerial traffic was a masterpiece in the art of prophecy. "Saw the heavens fill with commerce, argosies of magic sail, Pilots of the purple twilight dropping down with costly bales." His anticipation of aerial warfare was no less prophetic. "Heard the heavens fill with shouting, and there rained a ghastly dew, From the nations' airy navies grappling in the central blue." He had a very pleasant dream, too. His was the day when "the war-drum throbbed no longer, and the battle-flags were furled in the Parliament of man, the Federation of the world." The United Nations Organization is certainly a long way from the Parliament of man, the Federation of the world. But, perhaps, if mankind can go on hoping patiently and with perseverance, this dream, too, may yet be realized and "the kindly earth shall slumber, lapt in universal law." It isn't likely to come in our day, for there is no indication yet that war has become unfashionable. But "our day" is not a long one. Usually it takes time and lots of it for good dreams to come true.

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