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Provincial Exhibition

This week's Provincial Harvest Festival is an event that is long overdue. The fact that it is being held in conjunction with the Rural Youth Fair—an important event in its own right—makes it all the more interesting and, no doubt, will help in attracting visitors.

This Province is in great part an agricultural community. Its prosperity in practically every aspect of its economic life depends in large measure on agricultural production. Yet, it is years since farmers had the opportunity of displaying matured crops in a well organized exhibition. This was a mistake, and it is to be hoped that from now on the fall festival will be a regular event. It will probably not attract the great crowds which patronize Old Home Week, since of course the height of the tourist season has passed, and many of the side attractions of the earlier event will be missing from this one. Nevertheless, the attendance will be quite satisfactory and any deficiency in numbers will be more than compensated by the personal interest so many of our own citizens will have in the products on display.

In any case, the event will be a dramatic representation of the Island's basic industry; and, as such, its value will reach far beyond the exhibition itself into the cultural life of the community. Premier Matheson is to be heartily commended for his consistent advocacy of the plan which is not taking shape.

Federal Nominations

The Conservatives are following a wise course in getting their federal candidates early in the field, as well as in losing no time over selecting a new leader in place of the Rt. Hon. Mr. Drew. The generally accepted rumor is that the election will be called in June of next year; but the Prime Minister's decision on this point is still to be announced, and in any case preparedness on the part of Opposition parties is essential if they are to function effectively when the campaign is on.

The Queen's County Conservatives are to be congratulated upon their largely attended convention in Charlottetown and the calibre of the candidates they have chosen. Mr. MacLean, the sitting member, has proven an able and conscientious representative, and his associate, Mr. Macquarrie, is a brilliant speaker as well as student of public affairs. Whether they win, lose or draw we may be sure that they will give a good account of themselves. The Liberals have still to nominate their men; but it is no disparagement either of the sitting Liberal members or his prospective running mate to say that with such opponents they will have a strong fight on their hands.

That is as it should be. Elections are not always won on the personal merits of the candidates, but no party can afford to minimize the importance of this factor. It is the best way of maintaining the prestige of public office and of ensuring vigorous and competent representation at Ottawa. We need this more than ever today. If we are to realize our hopes and aspirations as a Province.

Italy Pioneered

Artificial breeding of cattle is a recent development in this country, but not so in Italy. According to Prof. T. Bonadonna, of Milan, leader of a party of top Italian livestock men now visiting Canada, experiments along this line took place nearly two hundred years ago—in 1788 under the supervision of Lazzaro Spallanzani, a monk. The Institute Sperimentale "Lazzaro Spallanzani", artificial breeding association now operated in Milan, is named in honor of this pioneer. As far as

is known, the experiments of Father Spallanzani were the first recorded use of artificial insemination in cattle.

At the present time, approximately 600,000 head of cattle are bred artificially in Italy. The Milan artificial breeding unit alone breeds approximately 45,000 head in a year. The greatest concentration of cattle in Italy is in Lombardy, where there are approximately 1,500,000 head, of which roughly 50 per cent are Holsteins, the balance being Brown Swiss.

The group of Italians are visiting Canada in order to study our Holstein cattle, and to purchase a few bulls of top calibre breeding. These will be used in the Italian artificial breeding units. Traditionally, Italy has purchased her cattle from Switzerland and from Holland. However, Prof. Bonadonna and the other members of his party have been impressed by the record of Canadian Holstein bulls that have been shipped to Italy in recent years, and have come to this country in consequence.

Agricultural Prospects

At least one achievement must be credited to the recent annual convention of the Maritime Provinces Board of Trade. It drew public attention to a weakness in the economic situation for which there is not the slightest excuse: the importation by all sections of the region of vast quantities of foodstuffs which could just as easily be produced at home in good quality. Mr. H. H. Smith, port and industrial commissioner of Saint John, N.B. stated: "Markets here are flooded with imported produce. We must find a solution if we are to have a stable economy." Mr. Mr. C. M. McLean, manager of the Co-op Supermarket in this city, backed up Mr. Smith's view by saying: "We don't produce a quarter of what we could sell." As if that were not enough evidence to support the general argument that the Maritimes are neglecting ready-made opportunities for economic expansion, Dr. Waldo Walsh, Deputy Minister of Agriculture in Nova Scotia, spoke up to say that "last year the Maritimes spent millions of dollars on imported beef."

Here, surely, is one field in which the Maritime Provinces are capable of holding their own with any area in Canada or the United States. It is of little use to seek new industries, which may or may not prove to be economically feasible, so long as we pay little or no attention to expanding and improving the one big industry which is common to all the Provinces. There can be no question of the ability of Maritime farmers to increase productivity to meet the needs of local markets. Apparently, the only thing needed is an incentive in the way of reasonable credit facilities. That ought not to be too difficult a thing to bring about if governments and trade organizations would get together in unity of purpose and in a genuine effort to find a way. It would surely be preposterous to keep on assuming that such a rich agricultural region as this can produce no more than one-quarter of the present population's needs.

EDITORIAL NOTES

The weather here since autumn made its formal appearance has been disappointing enough; but it has been even more so in other places. Toronto has had at least one snow flurry, and in upper New York State there has been a full inch of it. So, we must not complain too loudly.

The United States Department of Agriculture has decided to subsidize potato growers again this year, provided they agree to keep low quality products from the markets. The subsidy will be 50 cents per 100 lbs. for potatoes sent to starch factories, flour mills and feed lots from now to Dec. 31st. After that the subsidy will be 40 cents.

A health research survey has disclosed the fact that farmers work too hard. To the researchers engaged in the project that may be a surprising discovery. We rather fancy, though, that the farmers themselves would prefer to be told how they might get around the problem. Perhaps another survey will provide the answer.



A WINNING ENSEMBLE

Sick Mariners Service

Canadian Press, Halifax

Behind the headlines telling of sick or injured seamen landed at Canada's ports is the story of clinic and hospital services provided for men and women who have made the sea their livelihood.

The Sick Mariners Service in Canada is administered by the federal department of health and welfare. Ships of all nations, calling at Canadian ports, help in some measure to defray expenses.

For the fiscal year 1954-55, Sick Mariners' Treatment Service spent about \$956,500 while dues collected from ships totalled only \$311,111.

At the port of Halifax, revenue from ships' dues for 1955 was \$60,234.50. Dues are two cents per registered ton, collected three times a year from regular users of Canadian ports.

If a vessel makes less than three calls a year, it pays on each visit.

In 1955, Halifax hospitals handled about 500 marine cases, most of which were covered by the Sick Mariners Fund. Medical treatment is given either at the Halifax Infirmary or Camp Hill Hospital.

BENEFIT REQUIREMENT

To qualify for benefits under the Canadian Shipping Act, a mariner must be landed at port by the ves-

sel on which he signed. If he is transferred from one ship to another while at sea and landed by the latter, he doesn't qualify as a sick mariner.

This does not apply to fishermen who may qualify if they have made at least one trip during the year on a vessel that has paid sick mariner's dues.

Seamen of many nationalities are treated in the course of a year. In cases of linguistic difficulties, ship personnel are sometimes able to act as interpreters. Sometimes, the hospital has to find an interpreter.

Excepting emergency cases, the patient is examined at the Sick Mariners' clinic before admission to hospital. After treatment, he returns to the clinic for medical clearance and is sent home or back to his ship.

Many minor ailments are treated at the clinic. It was kept busy last year treating 2,652 cases of influenza and assorted cuts, bruises and infections.

In addition, several hundred seamen are vaccinated annually by the doctors of the clinic, and Halifax is the only centre in the province where inoculations against yellow fever are given.

Inoculation is free to any persons planning a trip to tropical areas where danger of contracting the fever exists.

In Schweitzer's Footsteps

Associated Press, Haiti

The full happy life of a well-mannered millionaire was beginning to unfold for William Larimer Mellon, Jr., in 1947.

Scion of the Pittsburgh Mellons, young Mellon, 37, already had retired—from whatever it is that millionaires retire—to his new house and ranch in Arizona with his wife and children.

Then one day the lounging millionaire chanced to flip through a picture magazine and came across an article on the work of Dr. Albert Schweitzer in the jungles of Africa.

From that day on, Mellon was consumed with a passion to serve life rather than constantly call on it for service.

Mellon went back to school. Seven years later he emerged from Tulane University medical school in New Orleans as Dr. William Larimer Mellon Jr.

REMEMBERED HAITI

With his wife, at the former Gwen Grant, whose family established the philanthropic Grant Foundation, Mellon had visited Haiti in 1952. He remembered the poverty, the helplessness, the physical miseries of the rural population.

In the broad, sloping Artibonite Valley at Deschappelles, Dr. Mellon built the Albert Schweitzer Memorial Hospital, a \$2,000,000 50-bed hospital in one of the poorest and most thickly populated areas in the Western Hemisphere. On his 46th birthday, last June 26th, two years after construction began, he quietly opened the doors.

To avoid being swamped with applications from all over the island, Mellon had to limit his facilities to treating the 50,000 natives who lived nearby. He mapped out a 400-acre hospital district, those outside the perimeter must use the dispensary-hospitals run by the government board of health.

GOVERNMENT HELPS

Dr. Mellon built his modern, air-conditioned hospital, complete with three operating rooms, x-ray facilities, laboratories, dental clinic and morgue, on a 100-acre tract granted by the government. Annual upkeep runs to about \$300,000, neither 100-acre government grant provided farm land for the institution to raise its own food. The Grant Foundation donated 11 staff bungalows.

Four American physicians, all specialists, two laboratory technicians and four nurses, in addition to a Haitian dentist and other trained native personnel, assist Dr. Mellon, who acts as director and does most of the diagnoses.

Where Nobody Takes Tips

By Thomas Harris

Visitors remember Iceland as the island where nobody gives tips and everyone is addressed by his Christian name.

Doormen, check room attendants, chambermaids or anyone else if tipped will politely hand the money back. Wherever a service is to be paid for, it is charged and a bill gives.

Foreigners in Iceland are happy about the no-tipping rule because the cost of living is high.

A bar of chocolate costs 12 crowns (84 cents), a haircut 22 crowns (\$1.54), and a breakfast of coffee, toast and marmalade from 30 to 40 crowns (from \$2.10 to \$2.80). A service charge of 10 per cent is added to these prices.

LANGUAGE DIFFICULTY

The reason for the general use of Christian names in Iceland is easily discernible when one opens a telephone book and tries to understand its Icelandic wording.

Nearly all private persons are listed alphabetically under their

Christian names with their family names coming afterwards. Even then, the family name is often the name of the father with the Icelandic word for "son" or, if the listed person is a woman, "daughter" added.

For example, the son, Henry, and the daughter, Mary, of a man named John, will be called Henry Johnson and Mary Johnson.

As Iceland's total population is under 150,000, this system does not lead to so much confusion as foreigners would imagine.

It is simplified by the fact that most businesses are listed under family names and that a number of Icelanders have "real" family names unconnected with their father's name. Most of these "real" family names are of foreign origin.

Lying remotely in the Atlantic, Iceland has been thrown back on her own resources. The language has changed so little that modern Icelandic children can read with



SUMMER SHADOWS

The bird that passed was not unknown to me, Although his beak, the color of his wing, The shape of any song that he might sing, Were only things to guess at, or With eyes unraised, I knew that he went by. And timed his crossing of my piece of sky.

The leaf was less intentioned in its flight, It was the wavering breeze that let it be, Dimensions for its travel; so the clue To its soft going came within my sight. I knew it for a leaf, but could not tell The bough from which it came, nor where it fell.

No other wings than butterflies can pour Such milkin madness into flight; now one Goes by as surely, between earth and sun, As bird and leaf. And yet I know Of each than that I saw its shadow pass, Across my little sea of summer grass.

—Silence Buck Bellows.

OUR YESTERDAYS

From The Guardian Files

TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO

(Sept. 27, 1931) Announcement was made of the appointment of Major C.C. Thompson, M.C., to the Pensions Tribunal.

A reduction in the train service both local and inter Provincial by the Canadian National Railway was strongly protested by Premier Stewart. It meant the discontinuance of connections with the Maritime Express westbound and the Ocean Limited westbound.

TEN YEARS AGO

(Sept. 27, 1946) L.A. England was elected president at the organization meeting of the Canadian Legion Branch at Ellerslie.

Major A.W. Rogers, Major Alan Nicholson and Lieut. Tom Keefe left for Halifax to attend the first annual dinner of officers of the West Nova Scotia Regiment.

ease the old sagas written 1,000 years ago. For centuries the hardy islanders, numbering only 50,000 in the whole country at one phase in their history, have tried to retain their own individuality. Their small numbers and their isolation to Norway and Denmark has made this difficult.

FEAR DOMINATION

For all these reasons, the Icelanders are intensely interested in all things foreign. At the same time, they are terrified of being swamped by them.

This may be the reason why the Icelandic authorities insisted that the television transmitter in Keflavik, transmitting programs to the American forces there, be screened so that the programs could not be received in Reykjavik, the capital, with a population of 60,000. And this is one of the reasons why the Icelandic government demanded the withdrawal of the Americans from Keflavik.

Icelanders frequently have pointed out in their newspapers and even in official statements that their very smallness as a nation makes any contact with large numbers of foreigners a threat to their own way of life.

MAXIMS

To remind a man of the good deed you have done him is very much like a reproach.

Medically Speaking

By Herman N. Busdessa, M. D.

RISING COST MAKE HOSPITAL BILLS HIGH

So you think hospital bills are too high? Most patients complain about hospital costs, you know. Well, as the politicians say, "Let's look at the record." Perhaps it will help you to understand things a little better.

Hospital costs have increased drastically during the last decade, there's no doubt about that. Ten years ago, the average cost per patient per day in a short-term stay at a general hospital in the United States was \$9.39. By 1954, according to the latest available statistics, it was \$21.76. This is an increase of 132 per cent. The Consumer Price Index jumped only 37.5 per cent during the same period. While the consumer index has risen only 0.5 per cent per year since 1951, the daily cost per patient has jumped 7 per cent per year.

PRIMARY FACTOR

Ray E. Brown, superintendent of the University of Chicago Clinics and president of the American Hospital Association, says that labor costs are a primary factor in this costly soaring. Nearly two-thirds of more than \$5,000,000,000 spent by American hospitals in 1954 was for payrolls.

The only way hospitals can cut labor costs is to have less skilled personnel take over the work of skilled personnel. A few hospitals are already being criticized for starting in this direction.

In industry, salary increases are absorbed somewhat by increases in labor productivity. This productivity increase is not possible in hospitals.

Another factor in booting hospital labor costs. Superintendent Brown points out, is that there is far more competition for female help from industry and labor than before World War II.

OVERHEAD CONTINUES

Remember, too, that overhead continues on empty beds. And believe it or not, the average occupancy of hospital beds has dropped during the last nine years from 72 to 71 per cent.

Because of shorter working hours and new services and procedures required in diagnosis and treatment, hospitals need more employees these days. Back in 1946 hospitals required 1.48 employees per patient per day. By 1954 they needed 1.98 employees.

Your hospital bills are high, but hospital costs are higher, too. However, you get more and better care today than ever before.

QUESTION AND ANSWER

T.E. A cousin of mine has tuberculosis of the kidney. Is it contagious? Answer: Usually, tuberculosis of the kidney is not readily transmitted to another person.

The Age Old Story

Though I walk in the midst of trouble, thou wilt revive me; thou shalt stretch forth thine hand against the wrath of mine enemies, and thy right hand shall save me.

SALMON RUN GOOD

WASHINGTON (AP)—U.S. Fish and wildlife service officials are optimistic that Alaskan salmon runs are headed back to previous peaks. The harvest bounced back strongly this last summer after several seasons of low catch. Escapement of fish to the spawning grounds also was good.

NOTES BY THE WAY

Recent accident statistics prove: If your wife is learning to drive, don't stand in her way.—Windsor Star

The Alcoholism Research Foundation, a government agency, estimates 76,000 alcoholics in Ontario, not inclusive of those who are on the verge—all of whom started in the belief it was possible to take it or leave it alone.—Port Arthur News-Chronicle

Some citizens object to the noise that air force jet planes make, and the trick is to think of it as a friendly and protective sound, like the policeman on the beat bouncing his nightstick off the pavement in the old days.—Orillia Packet and Times.

Your house can be kept free from rats by placing a snake in each room. Turning loose three or four average size bats in your bedroom before retiring will soon rid the room of mosquitoes. Black ants detest the odor of goats and by tying a couple of strong smelling angoras in your pantry the ants will soon disappear. Hornets are sure death to flies and a nest in the kitchen will save a lot of swatting.—Uplands Times

Indian tribes in Canada will soon have to keep a directory of honorary "white man" chiefs if they keep on with this business of handing out feathered head gear. Every few weeks or months another "white brother" is made an Indian chief.—Sudbury Star

Some 50 nations not very long ago signed a convention for the protection of cultural property in the event of an armed conflict. Unfortunately the atom bomb has not learned how to distinguish between a building used for cultural purposes and an ordinary building.—Fort William Times Journal

It would appear that the Communists can at last defend their claim to a "first" invention. In East Germany they are producing a midget cigar for people who only want a few puffs. It is about two inches long, shorter by three-quarters of an inch than the regulars and one and three-eighths inches shorter than king-size.—Welland Tribune

We would imagine that if the truth were known, those whose task it is to train the soldiers would be much happier without the surroundings of luxury. Unfortunately, such trimmings are all too frequently thrust upon the army by back office boys in the Defence Department who have no idea of how an army should be trained. It might be an idea to curtail much of the luxury now evident.—Moose Jaw Times-Herald

Dr. Benjamin Duggar died the other day in New Haven at the age of eighty-four. That is remarkable enough. But even more noteworthy is the way he spent the years since the University of Wisconsin imposed its automatic retirement at seventy. He was taken on as a research consultant by Lederle Laboratories and led the team of scientists which discovered the wonder drug aureomycin. Can it be that in retiring men like Dr. Duggar automatically are wasting one of our most valuable resources?—London Free Press

Before the Year ends we will probably have had six provincial elections. Seemingly the idea is to make political hay while the prosperity sun shines.—Kitchener-Waterloo Record

More and more, men are being urged to dress for comfort. Presumably this would mean tweed suits to resist the rigors of Summer air conditioning, and Bermuda shorts for Winter's steam-heated buildings.—Edmonton Journal

A generation ago parents wanted their children to have a better education than they had themselves. Today's parents wish their children could have one as good.—Hamilton Spectator

The Japanese Parliament has ruled that such terms as "fool," "crook" and "agitator" are no longer to be permitted in debate. These rough Western importations being barred the Japanese will have to return to such native terms as "Hon. neglecter of observed fact" and "Hon. victim of excessive discontent," or perhaps "Hon. corrector of the errors of Fate." Some of that would sound well at Ottawa.—Peterborough Examiner

A convention which, in many respects, put the GOP and Democrats to shame was held the other day down in Brit, Iowa. It was the annual get-together of the Hoboes of America, the happy-go-lucky boys of the United States and Canada who ride the rails. But they are getting fussy—they want cushions for box cars, if you please, and bigger and better hand-outs of Mulligan stew. The delegates promised "not to sail at any time with more than three sheets in the wind".—Lethbridge Herald

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