

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, MONDAY, MAR. 17, 1952

Strange Bedfellows In France

Political observers in France are betting even money that General Charles de Gaulle will sooner or later emerge as the leader destined to restore "order" to a crisis-weary people. Pressures both economic and political appear to have shattered beyond repair the uneasy coalition which has governed France since the cessation of hostilities at the end of World War II.

General Charles de Gaulle, somewhat austere hero of the Free French Movement in the dark days of World War II, could be excused the diplomatic blunders and the bad grace which then so frequently characterized his conduct.

Family Allowance Payments

Family allowance payments in Canada are increasing at a rate between \$10 millions and \$11 millions a year, according to the last two annual reports of the Department of National Health and Welfare.

The total families on payment in March 1951 were 1,910,192 with 4,367,391 children compared to 1,852,269 families with 4,202,263 children the previous year.

In the past year, \$449,644 over-payments were discovered compared to \$611,335 the previous year. Seventy-five per cent of these cases are due to non-attendance at school, children working for wages, and non-maintenance by parents.

\$13,882.15 overpayments with \$1,172 marked uncollectible. For Prince Edward Island the following figures are given. Families receiving allowance, 13,117; children for whom allowance is paid, 34,308; average monthly payment per family, \$15.56; total monthly payment, \$207,170.

EDITORIAL NOTES

St. Patrick's Day.

The city general campaign of the Red Cross opens today.

The Legislature resumes this afternoon for a continuance of the debate on the Address, the Premier having the floor.

This is Farmers' Week, when it is impossible to do any outside farming and the farmers get together in their various associations.

The Irishmen will not have dry walking as has been customary on this anniversary, but this will not interfere with the enthusiasm with which they will muster for their annual parade.

There will now be no excuse for farmers being ignorant of the description of the soil they are cultivating seeing that "Soil Survey of Prince Edward Island" has been published.

Taxation extraordinary! According to the Canadian Association of Broadcasters \$12 million taxes are imposed on Canadians by the CBC to provide one-ninth of their radio listening.

The author of the report on "Soil Survey of Prince Edward Island" is Mr. G. B. Whiteside, not Woodside as stated on Saturday. Mr. Whiteside is soil survey and soil fertility agronomist at the Dominion Experimental Farm in Charlottetown.

Irishmen may be somewhat disappointed in what the weatherman has done to Charlottetown streets for St. Patrick's Day but the City has every reason to be proud of the wearers of the Shamrock.

U. K. steel prices are still so low that The Economist argues that at least the heavy section of the steel industry may be "giving its capital away." Low prices are a blessing to the human race, provided they are obtained by economic processes.

Margaret Grace Bondfield, English trade unionist, was born this date 1873. When less than 15 she went into the drapery business and in 1898 became assistant secretary to the National Union of Shop Assistants, then of the National Federation of Women Workers and in 1923 chairman of the Trades Union Congress.

The slick mathematicians who manipulate the Cost-of-Living Index now advise us that next summer there will be a reduction to record, not from the previous basis of 1935-39, but from a war-year, namely 1949. This should not fool anybody.

It now appears that some action may be taken by Ottawa in making a start with the long delayed erection of the Federal Building in Charlottetown. The blame for the delay was laid by the authorities on the scarcity of steel, but when it is borne in mind that such an excuse was not forthcoming in the case of the Summerside project, or even in the extensive reconstruction of the Moore & McLeod building, that must be taken with more than the proverbial grain of salt.

With oil and natural gas producing untold wealth, Saskatchewan can afford to dispense with dairying as an industry and resort to substitutes. Saskatchewan's oil production reached the record high of 1,249,281 barrels during 1951. This total is an increase of more than 200,000 barrels from the previous record of 1,041,098 barrels produced in 1950.

Leprechaun Treasure



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.

PAKISTAN AND ISRAEL

Sir.—My attention has been drawn to a dispatch published in the Montreal Star of the 12th March, 1952, under the caption "Arab League May Close Israel Rift" wherein certain interpretations have been given to Pakistan's Foreign Minister's recent statements. It has been sought to make out that Sir Mohammed Zafrullah Khan has been saying point blank that the first duty of the Arab States is to work out a modus vivendi with Israel.

I am, Sir, etc. E. H. ENVER, Acting High Commissioner for Pakistan in Canada. Ottawa, March 15.

NEIGHBORLY COURTESIES

Sir.—The people of P. E. I. are well aware of this winter's fuel shortage for me to waste space in your esteemed paper to discuss it, but I would like to say that this week we were very happy to supply coal to some residents of Hunter River when their own dealer's supplies were exhausted.

We know that our good neighbours of Hunter River are not responsible for Mr. Carr's comments, and I can assure them that although some other person or persons might have aided in the writing of the letter in question, the people of North Rustico know full well that it does not express their opinion of us, and will in no way whatever mar the good relationship that has always existed between our two lovely villages, of which, respectively, we are so justly proud.

With regard to the statements pertaining to the flood, I can only say that the people of North Rustico were no more to blame for the exaggerated stories at that time than they are for the ones about the recent storm, and the assertion that they were made for the purpose of getting help from the Red Cross is far from correct. True some assistance (approximately \$700) was received from this wonderful organization, but this, as with all their other kind missions of mercy, was done on their own initiative and for no other reason than to show the people how they appreciate the small amount of support we were able to give them with their financial campaign and blood donors' clinics.

Notes By The Way

A twenty-year-old ban on the import of parrots into the British Isles has been lifted. It doesn't seem to have aroused much stir in Britain, but the parrots can be expected to squawk—Cornwall Standard-Freeholder.

Another United States cargo ship has turned up an English port with a bad crack across her main deck. A succession of such cases must be causing concern to American shipping interests—Ottawa Journal.

Lake Shore, when it completes two new levels, projected for the further development of its new South Zone, will be the deepest mine in the Americas. The levels will be at 7,950 and 8,075 ft., and the shaft will be at a vertical depth below surface of 8,125 ft. Presently the deepest mine on this side of the Atlantic is the Morro Velho of St. John del Rey, a gold mining company in Minas Gerais, Brazil.—Northern Miner.

About 78,000 babies under one month of age died in the United States—well over twice the number who succumb during the remaining 11 months of infancy. Life is particularly hazardous for the newborn. One-third of all deaths in the first year of life happen on the day of birth; three-fifths of the infant deaths occur in the first week. If the number of deaths on the good people of Hunter River, as it was only last year that they found it advisable to hire our hall to put on their amateur plays, when their own hall proved unavailable for the purpose. I am, Sir, etc. J. G. GAUDIN, North Rustico, March 14.

A FINE RECORD

Sir.—I have been reading a lot about the situation of North Rustico during the recent storms; but it is an ill wind that doesn't do someone good. The Tourist Association won't have to do so much advertising as I understand the newspapers in both Canada and the United States have had this story in their headlines. I have lived in North Rustico practically all my life and I have never seen or heard of such an outrageous description as appeared in certain papers. The people of North Rustico were not asking for alms; all they asked for was a snow plow to come from Hunter River.

As usual the merchants have to keep well stocked up as we are ten miles from a railroad, but we must remember that this winter was an exception, as coal was scarce not only here but even in Charlottetown. Most people should take off their hats to North Rustico as about 70 per cent of our boys were in the last War and many other boys have signed up lately. But there are some who just go around with a pencil behind their ear and a school book in their hand. We admit that a good many Government checks come in here but they are well deserved as a number of our boys are quite crippled due to the last War, and we have another young married man who was a prisoner in Hong Kong for four years.

Sneaking favorably of North Rustico, a merchant told me he had done business there for sixty-five years and only once there was a pair of rubbers and two files of tobacco stolen from his store. Rubbers at that time were 65 cents a pair and tobacco was 4 cents a fig. He also told me that people could buy and put their parcels in sleighs or wagons and go visiting for an evening and nothing would be touched. How many communities can boast of a record like that? A merchant told me a good one the other day. He had a car load of coal come to Hunter River, and a man called up and wanted to know if he could get some coal. He said, "Yes, you can get the coal but don't ask for kindling as we burned all our fannies." Ha, ha! I am, Sir, etc. RESIDENT OF N. R.

Old Charlottetown (And P. E. I.)

TELEGRAPHY CLASS

"Mr. Prescott's class of Telegraphy is now in full blast. A large number of our young men are availing themselves of the chance thus afforded to learn this important branch of the business. They are so far succeeding well. Mr. Prescott is proving himself to be an excellent teacher, and he is ably assisted by Mr. A. E. Morrison. There are yet five vacancies in the class. Thus a few more of our young men are afforded an opportunity to learn the electric art."—The Examiner, Jan. 19, 1953.

The Poet's Corner

ST. PATRICK'S DAY

This is the day when Irish hearts rejoice. Wherever and whenever kinemen walk They sing their country's praises in one voice. With friendly get together and good talk. Jestingly they scorn quaint superstitions. That are a part of Erin. Old wives' tales. Folk dancing and odd stepped-in traditions. Bog fairies, phantom ships and haunted vales. They love the grandeur of their native lale. Her rugged shores, her stubborn, stalwart sons, Her comely colleens with their ready smiles, Her bards and poets with their merry puns. In awe they hold his name, who brought to them Knowledge divine, by showing there were three: Green shamrock leaves upon a single stem. So, three in one, the blessed Trinity. —Hazel Firth Goddard.

English Milk Marketing Board

By L. P. McIsaac, Research Director, P. E. I. Federation of Agriculture (Conclusion)

An important change occurred in 1942. In order to have full control of all milk supplies, the Ministry of Food then decided to buy all the milk and to re-sell and allocate it to the distributors and manufacturers itself. From 1933 to 1942, the Board had regulated supplies through the terms of the milk contract to which both producer and buyer were parties. This method, however, was not satisfactory when supply was ample but was not found flexible enough when supplies were falling short of demand.

Under the new system, all milk was sold to the Board which in turn sold it to the Ministry of Food. Methods for allocating the milk then became more flexible. The hauling of the milk from the producer to its first destination, the depot or dairy, was the responsibility of the Board. After that, responsibility for the transport became the responsibility of the Ministry. As a result, a much improved system of delivery to the distributor and manufacturer went into effect.

The Board, as purchaser of all milk sold off the farms, in turn sells the whole of this milk to the Ministry of Food at the price which is sufficient to pay the producers the negotiated price and cover administrative expenses as well. The Ministry then sells the milk to the distributors and manufacturers at prices which are fixed from time to time. About one-third of the fluid milk in England is processed and distributed by the Consumers Co-operative dairy branch which makes for greater efficiency.

Notwithstanding the fixed prices between 1933 and 1939, milk costs to consumers were substantially improved; the consumer only paid 12 per cent more for his milk in 1939 than he had in 1933. During the same period, London Board of Trade figures show that whole sale prices for other foods had advanced 18 per cent. On a basis of quality it is doubtful if the consumer was paying any more for his milk in 1939 than he was in 1933 for the milk he was getting in 1939 was greatly superior to the product he had been buying six years before.

A parallel for what it is worth may be drawn here between the activities of the English Milk Board and the Prince Edward Island Potato Marketing Board. As all readers of our local papers know, the opponents of the provincial potato board set up a great hue and cry against the Board's levy of one cent per every 100-lb. bag of potatoes sold by the producer. When the producer was getting 40 cents a bushel for his potatoes of the 1950 crop, the levy meant one cent out of every 67 received; at this year's average price of \$1.80 per bushel, the one-cent levy would mean one cent out of every 300 he received.

The English Milk Board imposes a levy on the producer of one farthing on every gallon of milk sold, so the effect on the producer is receiving approximately 30 pence per gallon for his milk in 1951, he was paying one penny to the Board for every 120 received. What has the English Milk Board done with that levy? Among other things, it has:

- (a) revolutionized the milk industry of England and Wales; (b) it has improved the health and growth of the school children; (c) it has made the daily drinking of milk by factory and office workers a habit; (d) it has, through its insemination policy, made practically every dairy herd a pure bred one; (e) it has, by setting production goals and stabilizing prices, increased the efficiency in dairy production by over 50 per cent; (f) it has eliminated overlapping and inefficiency in the collecting and distribution of milk; (g) it has raised the quality of English milk to the point where it is the equal of any in the world; and (h) it has done all this while giving to the consumer a product which has not risen in cost nearly as much as other food products have risen.

More than that, this insignificant farthing, collected from the sale price of each gallon of milk since 1933, has given the English Milk Board fixed assets which, on March 31, 1951, were valued at one million, four hundred and fifty thousand pounds sterling (\$4,350,000). In addition, the Board had a cash reserve on that date of just over one million pounds with which to finance its operations and to undertake further capital development. The Board started operations in 1933 without one pennyworth of capital. It is easy to see, with these facts in one's possession, why our local potato dealers' association objected to the Potato Board's collection of one cent per each 100-lb. bag of potatoes sold. Within a few years, the Prince Edward Island Potato Board would certainly have been able to do great things for the potato industry of this Province.

I must not close this very sketchy account of the British M.M.B., without informing Guardian readers that the Board had plenty of trouble during its first few years of existence. It had opposition just as the local potato board has opposition. Prior to 1933, the distributors and manufacturers were exploiting the milk industry in England and Wales because they had the farmers competing with one another in order to sell their product—often at ruinous prices. Moreover, those distributors who had bought their milk more cheaply than some of their competitors were in the habit of cutting prices so that the market was generally

The Age-Old Story

Bless the Lord, O my soul. Lord my God, thou art very great, thou art clothed with honour and majesty. Who covers thyself with light as with a garment: who stretcheth out the heavens like a curtain: who layeth the beams of his chambers in the waters: who maketh the clouds his chariot: who walketh upon the wings of the wind. O Lord, how manifold are thy works! in wisdom hast thou made them: all the earth is full of thy riches. How excellent is thy lovingkindness, O God! therefore the children of men put their trust under the shadow of thy wings. They shall be abundantly satisfied with the fatness of thy house: and thou shalt make them drink of the river of thy pleasures. For with thee is the fountain of life: in thy light shall we see light.

U.K. Women's Institute Markets Save \$150,000 A Year

(The Times London) Women's Institutes, the first of which was formed in Great Britain in 1915, have a proud record of patriotic service in times of national need. They aim not only to bring cultural education to country-women themselves but also to encourage them in contributing to the good of the community. It is the goal of their last intention that market stalls have been organized by the National Federation of Women's Institutes since 1932. It has, therefore, caused them concern to find that their sales of fresh fruit and vegetables are being overtaken by some to have been organized with the intention of bringing down retail prices. The real function of existing local markets, or occasionally by the roadside or on village greens, is to prevent surplus produce from private vegetable gardens, allotments, small farms and holdings from going to waste. Most of them are registered under the Industrial and Provident Societies Act and are owned by their producers. Shareholders elect the producers. Shareholders elect the producers and appoint the officers to run the markets. Shares are not restricted to Institute members but may be held by such small producers as old-age pensioners, ex-servicemen and women, and allotment holders. They are taught to grade and pack their produce, which is sold at the prevailing rates. Most stalls are open for one day a week. Frequently anything left over is given to local hospitals. When this is not done the produce usually feeds it to rabbits or over, those distributors who had produced a year is saved by markets, which are held in 24 counties.