

THE GUARDIAN

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CIRCULATION "Covers Prince Edward Island like the dew" "The Strongest Memory is Weaker Than the Weakest Ink"

CHARLOTTETOWN, SATURDAY, FEB. 9, 1952

Head Of The Commonwealth

Elizabeth is Queen of Canada as her father was King of Canada and she was so proclaimed at Ottawa. In addition the proclamation, like those given in Britain and the Dominions, hailed Her Majesty as Head of the Commonwealth.

The new title takes account of the existence of republics within the family of Commonwealth nations, whose constitution precludes them from accepting Elizabeth as Queen but who nevertheless are unwilling to sever their ties with its other members.

Republics within the Commonwealth may seem something of a contradiction in terms, but changing forms cannot destroy sentiment, to say nothing of practical statesmanship.

The noble sentiments expressed by the 25-year-old Queen in making her declaration of accession to the Privy Council augur well for the Commonwealth and its Head.

Slight Case Of Bureaucracy

The professed aim of Ottawa's top-heavy Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation is to make it easier for people of modest means to acquire homes. Those who have had occasion to avail themselves of the services of this Crown Corporation sometimes wonder whether the bad old-fashioned way of doing business without Ottawa's "aid" isn't after all a whole lot simpler.

Consider, for example, the plight of one home-owner in a certain Maritime community where housing is scarce. He had a large house and was anxious to convert a portion of it into a self-contained apartment. The nearest office of Central Mortgage and Housing provided him with a packet of literature on the merits of a "home conversion loan" to finance the contemplated structural changes. He was told to make the application directly through his own bank.

The bank manager was co-operative. But he lacked the necessary forms. Repeated calls to CMHC local offices revealed the fact that they, too, lacked the needed forms. CMHC undertook to get them from Ottawa. A month elapsed. The forms never arrived. Finally, the bank manager secured a set from his bank's head office in Montreal. After a session with the lawyers, the home owner finally completed the documents and they were sent off to Ottawa for approval. That was six weeks ago. The applicant is still waiting. The housing unit that he wants to construct remains unbuilt. What he says about CMHC is not flattering to the efficiency of doing business with the Government.

Another man in the same community also wanted to convert part of his house into apartments. He went to see a local mortgage company. The arrangements were completed and the necessary funds forthcoming within a week. The new apartment he is building is almost completed.

Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation has, of course, accomplished something. Its two million dollar headquarters building in Ottawa is near completion.

Deer Multiplying In Britain

The recent spread of deer in Britain, notes the London Times, is one more example of how mutable a thing is the balance among the various forms of life in a given area. The main controlling elements in this case are fairly evident. One, at least, of them goes back several centuries, to the extermination of the wolf, which left deer without any predatory animal—except man—to limit their numbers. In order to protect his woodlands and arable crops man had, therefore, either to kill off the deer or to confine them to parks. Thus, in most of England, it was only in walled or fenced parks that any deer were to be found during the prosperous period which ended in 1914 or soon after. With the break-up of the great estates, and the break-down of the park fences, the deer soon began to percolate back into the countryside and establish themselves.

This escape was, in fact, going on even before 1914 in some places, and deer were living, for example, in woods on the Surrey-Sussex border at least 50 years ago. Between the wars the process was much accelerated, and about 1939 Lord Winterton said that all three British species of deer—red, fallow, and roe—were to be found in that district. The same has happened

in other areas; in some a fourth species, the Japanese silka deer, is also at large. Moreover, since deer are essentially woodland animals the planting of forests by the Forestry Commission has proved an additional aid to their spread. In some places they have increased to become something of a nuisance to both farmers and foresters. Some local reduction in the number of deer has then been necessary, though not always easy to achieve, since the best instrument for their humane and efficient killing is the rifle, which is not a very safe weapon in the English countryside.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Tomorrow, Septuagesima.

Dark ties have been given place to by the bright ones for the duration of the week of special mourning.

France is forging ahead slowly. The new Premier, M. Edgar Faure, got a vote of confidence in the National Assembly after three weeks in office.

It is not yet known whether joint church services or individual ones will be held in the city on Friday 15th, official day of mourning.

Are we making progress? Sure! We have now cattle ranching and sheep husbandry in addition to our dairy, mixed farming, and hog industries. Plenty room for initiative and industry.

The New York Times reports experiments indicate that flies may readily journey as much as a mile. The implications so far as interest in more than one's immediate neighbourhood are obvious.

The Canadian Press compiled a selection of newspaper editorials on the death of the King and forwarded them to London. Similarly, the CBC forwarded records of the tributes of the Federal Prime Minister and the Premiers of the Provinces.

Sunday night there will be a partial eclipse of the moon. The earth's rounded shadow should have a ruddy hue. The moon enters the penumbra at 6:06 p.m.; the umbra at 8:03; maximum eclipse 8:39; leaves umbra 9:15; and finally the full moon emerges from the penumbra at 11:12.

Sir Vincent de Ferranti, British scientist told a meeting of Ontario Association of Professional Engineers that Britain's electric power grid is being expanded, and it is hoped soon to set up generators nearer to coal deposits than at present. He said that in brain-power Britain is keeping pace with the United States development of electronic computers. He showed a \$60,000 computer which plays a simple mathematical game that it invariably wins.

The plan, now withdrawn, to divide married servicemen's pay into two cheques, one for the husband and one for the wife, was undoubtedly prompted by the hardship of a few wives whose husbands declined to make sufficient voluntary assignments. There is much to be said for having such a compulsory division but after all the terms on which the servicemen joined up must be kept in mind.

The report of apparent molybdenum deficiency in market garden areas near Charlottetown is a reminder that other trace elements may also be deficient in particular locations. The note that liming makes the molybdenum more available to plants also provides a hint of the cause of condition. The recommendation of the Plant Pathology Science Service to apply sodium molybdate with the fertilizer seems to be the most satisfactory answer for the areas concerned.

Our certified disease free potatoes travel some. Last year, for instance, the destinations of our exports were: U. S. A. (26 States) 2,380,896; other Canadian Provinces, 737,030; Cuba, 170,053; Chile, 36,705; Jamaica, 27,190; Israel, 24,749; Venezuela, 5,499; Union of South Africa, 3,365; Haiti, 666; British Honduras, 55. Total, 3,386,208 bushels. Florida was our biggest customer with a consignment of 814,436 bushels, while even the potato state of Maine took more than 51,000 bushels.

Lord Carson of Duncrain, Irish statesman, was born this date 1854. A Queen's Counsel at both the Irish and English bar, he advanced to high place in various Conservative Governments. He campaigned against Home Rule, but after the First World War he agreed on dividing N. E. Ireland from the rest of the country. He became a lord of appeal in 1921. Carson's musical brogue, commanding presence and magnetic appearance made him one of the most formidable yet attractive legal orators of his day.

To Lighten The Weighty Mantle



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.

ROAD WORK COMMENDED

Sir.—There are many complaints about bad roads; but I wish to speak about good roads; and congratulate Messrs. Snowie and MacKay for the way they keep the roads open in their district.

It means a lot to travellers to have the roads, not only passable but to have the snow piled back, so that when melted the freshets will run in the ditches. There is a day and night job and not an easy one.

I am, Sir, etc. W. O. MYERS Stanley Bridge, P. E. I.

PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO GOVERNMENT ANNUITIES ACT

Sir.—The institution of Life Insurance fully approves the \$40 a month pension payable since January 1st without a means test to all Canadians on reaching age 70, as they are universal in scope and do not discourage enterprise on the part of individual citizens to better their lot, either by earning or saving money.

On the other hand, the Life Underwriters take strong exception to the proposed amendments to the Annuities Act to increase the maximum amount of annuity procurable from \$1200 to \$2400, and authorizing the introduction of cash values.

It would appear that when Bill No. 23 was introduced, neither the members of the Government, nor members of Parliament generally, fully realized the real significance of these two provisions in the Bill.

The original intent of the Annuities Act was to offer contracts at less than cost, in the hope that it would encourage and assist people of moderate means to provide for their old age. The bulk of annuities, however, have been purchased by well-to-do individuals or corporate buyers of pension plans.

To illustrate this fact, it is only necessary to point out that a man aged 45 who wished to buy for himself and his wife of the same age government annuities payable at 65, and guaranteed for 10 years, even up to the present limit of \$1200 each, would be required to pay an annual premium of \$1,171.68. Assuming that he put 10 percent of his income into this annuity purchase, he would have to be in receipt of an income in excess of \$11,000 per annum.

The Government rates are subsidized and since 1908 the people of Canada have absorbed not only all administrative costs, but also large losses. For the fiscal year ending 31st March, 1951, the published figures of administrative costs show that these costs reached the substantial amount of \$732,359.00. During the same year a further \$659,786.00 was contributed by the taxpayers toward the maintenance of an annuity fund reserve. During the fiscal year 1949-50 the amount contributed by the taxpayers toward the maintenance of annuity fund reserves actually exceeded ten million dollars.

Notes By The Ways

Even the 40-below zero weather over the North has not been able to cool off some of the "hot" stories that emanated from a convention of outfitters at North Bay. The delegates heard how wolves have learned to guard against airborne hunters and are teaching their young to beware of all aircraft. We don't believe the story. Using an aircraft last March, two South Dakotians bagged 22 wolves in two days on lakes in the Sioux Lookout district. When wolves are on the hunt they usually follow deer out on a frozen lake despite the presence of an airplane. (Suburban Star).

It may well be that the chief reason why a young man leaves the farm for the city is the definite and shorter hours of factory and office, and the near-by social conveniences; but there are other reasons too. One old farmer put it in these words: "The eternal tyranny of the livestock." By which he means that a dairy herd must be milked twice a day seven days a week, and that few farm boys or even hired men like being tied down to such a hard and fast rule. (London Free Press).

A proposal for giving names with historical significance to Ottawa's streets is now before the Board of Control, and deserves the closest consideration. It is only as the Capital of Canada that Ottawa has much significance. In the naming of streets, this should be given consideration. Arteries might be named after the provinces, as a number of Washington streets are named after individual states. Great Canadians, whatever cities they lived in, should have their place. Streets

He held no dream worth waking; so he said. He who stands now on death's triumphant steep, Awakened out of life wherein we sleep.

And dreams of what he knows and sees, being dead. But never death for him was dark or drear; "Look forth" he bade the soul, and fear not. Weep. All ye that trust not in his truth, and keep Vain memory's vision, of a vanished head. As all that lives of all that once was he.

Save that which lightens from his word; but who, Who, seeing the sunset-coloured waters roll, Yet know the sun subdued not of the sea, Nor weep nor doubt that still the spirit is whole, And life and death but shadows of the soul.

—Robert Browning.

ference of opinion between the two points of view. The opinion that potatoes, a bulky perishable product, produced and consumed all over North America, cannot be successfully controlled in an area where only 2% is produced, is held by those who have spent many years in producing and marketing potatoes. On the other hand, the Socialistic theory that a Government Agency, armed with autocratic control powers, without any personal financial responsibility, can do a better job than those who, by a combination of experience, initiative and perseverance, are able to locate the most favorable market for our product. If the dealer does not find the best market, he is out of business forthwith—while the autocratic agency can still carry on. While the theorists are interested in their theories, the potato producers and dealers who livelihood it is, are deeply interested in the welfare of the whole industry, and will cooperate with any agency who will face reality and profit by past experience over the whole competitive area. Reality is not the idea that long experience is of no value, and that monopolistic control is the answer to the problems of marketing potatoes. We are, Sir, etc. POTATO DEALERS' ASSN.

Notes By The Ways

Inasmuch as dairies have been selling skim milk, it's rather surprising to know the commodity has been illegal in Ontario. Apparently it was made so in the "unlightened" past, when the Cream and Milk Act set standards specifying the amount of cream that must be contained in milk sold for human consumption. We constantly prate about our high standards of living. Yet, in recent years margarine has been legalized as a substitute for butter; horsemeat is legalized as a substitute for beef steaks, and now skim milk is to be legalized as a substitute for beef steaks, and now skim milk is to be legalized as a substitute for whole milk. In which way are our standards of living going, up or down?—Windsor Daily Star.

The second generation of the Brehaut family here were a hardy, upright, honest, hardworking people; inclined to be excitable, owing probably to the French in them. Their lives seem to have been rather uneventful, no notable disasters or adventures of great importance taking place among them. Neither were any of their great travellers. But they all lived God-fearing, upright lives, and trained their children in the fear of the Lord.

A majority of their young men became farmers, but there were a number who went away and learned trades. Plastering seems to have been the favorite trade among them, a few became carpenters. We find one tanner, two shoemakers and three school teachers. The next generation spreads out and shows a great many different callings. Those now growing up will doubtless do honor to themselves and also to those who went before them.

The Poet's Corner

A SONNET

He held no dream worth waking; so he said. He who stands now on death's triumphant steep, Awakened out of life wherein we sleep.

And dreams of what he knows and sees, being dead. But never death for him was dark or drear; "Look forth" he bade the soul, and fear not. Weep. All ye that trust not in his truth, and keep Vain memory's vision, of a vanished head. As all that lives of all that once was he.

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Murray Harbour Settlement

GUERNSEY PIONEERS (Concluded from yesterday's Guardian)

Shipbuilding soon grew to a great business, and all the timber was close at hand, and when the ships were completed, they were loaded with timber and sent home to the Old Country, where both ship and cargo were sold for money and supplies.

There were also fish of all kinds in far greater numbers than now, and the kelp and seaweed made a plentiful supply of manure. Then the fact that none of the young people growing up needed to wander away to choose homes for themselves, as our young folks are forced to do now, was another advantage. The places for homes lay all around them, and land was cheap then; the most that was needed was the strength and the will to clear it, and they were rich in both.

True, there was no such machinery as now, which makes the farmer's life seem almost one of ease compared with one hundred years ago. Oxen were generally used for tilling the soil, and all the crops were put in by hand. Gathering the harvest was done with the sickle or reaping hook. Threshing was done with the flail. Perhaps few of us have ever seen either used. It was a proud day when Henry Brehaut first brought home a horse. His name was Trim, and a faithful horse he proved.

There were some wild animals most dreaded of which was the bear. No very serious adventures came from this source, however, but several bears were killed in the neighborhood. About the last one was one that Henry Brehaut II and two of his sons killed with pitchforks, between John Cowan's and Thomas Henry's farms. The depredations of foxes among the poultry were rather troublesome, but as the land was cleared they gradually grew less bold.

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Henry Brehaut II married Frances Thorne of England. Their family numbered ten, of whom six are still living. Ten, and most of their family followed the Methodist Church, and for years their house was the home of the Methodist ministers.

Denis Brehaut, who was the second son, married Isabella, daughter of James Bell of White Sands. Six of their seven children are still living. His death in the prime of life, caused by consumption brought on by exposure, while helping to cut out a vessel from the ice, was the first break in the family. His remains lie in the English Church cemetery.

Thomas Brehaut, the third son, went to Miramichi, a young man. He married Sarah Noble of that place, and settled there. His family numbered eight, two of whom are dead. Some of the family reside in the United States, two other sons are farmers, living with their families in Douglasfield, N.B. There is also a daughter, a maiden lady. The sons are farmers.

Elizabeth Brehaut was married to James Laird of Vernon River. She had one daughter, who became the wife of David Crichton. The daughter died leaving four little children to her mother's care. She lived with them until her death.

The writer has a remembrance of this old lady bringing her a set of silver cuff buttons very long ago. They had been her mother's, and she left orders that if the writer died, they were to be left as an heirloom to someone in the Brehaut family. The present owner prizes them highly.

Matthew Brehaut was the next son. He married Ann, daughter of William Bishop of Murray Harbour. His family numbered nine; two are dead. He was a

very good man, and his last message, sent from his death-bed to a service in the Methodist Church at White Sands, was a message to all to give their hearts to the Lord.

Margaret Brehaut was married to Henry Senecaugh. Of their family of seven daughters, only two are living. She was an old lady who had seen trouble of no ordinary kind, but was always cheerful and ready to tell all kinds of stories.

Joseph Brehaut was the youngest son. He married Susan, daughter of William White of Murray River. Their children numbered twenty-two, of whom are dead. To his daughter, Charlotte, Mrs. Murray, now of St. Paul, Minn., belongs the honor of originating the idea of this celebration, and to his daughter, Bessie, the writer is indebted for much of the information in this paper. The homestead came to him at the old people's death, and is now held by his son, David.

Charlotte Brehaut was married to James Senecaugh, and lived on the farm west of her father's. They had eight children, of whom four are dead. She was a very good woman, and a famous housekeeper, and the last of the family who died.

It is rather noticeable how each family held to the old family names. Margaret's family was the only one without a Henry, and she had no boys. James, William and Daniel were in nearly every family, and there were Elizabeths and Charlottes more than a modern Postmaster could stand.

The living descendants of Henry Brehaut, who landed here in 1806, are not less than four hundred, possibly there are four hundred and fifty, as there were some not heard from.

May each of us live so as to be worthy of the inheritance left us by those gone before, and may we all be fitted to meet them in that Better Land where joyful meetings never end, and partings are no more.

Old Custom

(The Printed Word)

Gregory the Great, who became Pope in the year 590, is credited with the origin of a custom that has endured for more than thirteen centuries. At the time of his accession a plague was raging in Rome, with many deaths occurring daily. As the early symptoms of the disease were fits of sneezing and yawning, Gregory decreed that a blessing should be pronounced whenever a person sneezed and that the sign of the cross should be made over the mouth of anyone who yawned. Whether this measure had any therapeutic value of not, the epidemic ceased, and the first part of Gregory's decree survives in the custom of saying "God bless you" or its equivalent when a person sneezes. History does not relate when the second part of the decree fell into disuse, but it may be conjectured that this occurred with the rise of the after-dinner speaker. The custom of making crosses over the yawning mouths would lead to more commotion than was seemly in a captive audience. Or it may be that the mannerly habit of covering the yawning mouth is a relic, now without religious significance, of the great Pope.

Old Charlottetown

(And P. E. I.)

INDIAN LETTER

"A letter with the following superscription was forwarded by the Post: 'Olla Orightign Ganaosai illei onamir Oetaim.' It being the first of the kind transmitted by the Postmaster, it was necessary to give the translation, viz: 'To Piel Snuik & Callbeck, Indians Melqueue, Prince Edward Island.'—P. E. I. Register, July 18, 1851.

The Age-Old Story

The Lord reigneth, he is clothed with majesty; the Lord is clothed with strength, wherewith he hath girded himself; the world also is established, that it cannot be moved.

HIGHWAY TRAFFIC

The terrific number of Traffic Accidents across Canada and the United States is appalling. "Drive Carefully" should be the slogan of every car and truck driver in an endeavour to improve the unfortunate situation that prevails. Be sure to carry one of our new Comprehensive Policy Contracts that will protect you financially.

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