

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, FEB. 18, 1952

EDITORIAL NOTES

Ice racing today. The Curling Bónspiel this week. Hockey does not seem to be getting any better very fast. What are the prospects of the Irishmen having dry streets as customary on St. Patrick's Day, a month from now?

The P. E. I. Musical Association is a very active and progressive organization, determined to place the Province in the front line of Musical Festivals.

It is good to be a Liberal and a lawyer in Montreal. A recent return shows that the Federal Government since 1948 paid nearly \$430,000 for services to some 150 lawyers in that city.

Importing policemen from Glasgow. Twelve Scotsmen will leave Britain in March to join the Edmonton Police. They were selected from 54 applicants and are all ex-servicemen.

For the fourth year in succession, since the British Broadcasting Corporation started its general knowledge competition, "Top of the Form", open to schools in Britain and Northern Ireland, a Scottish school has triumphed. This year's winner is Morgan Academy, Dundee.

Lord Boyd-Orr, Scottish farmer and first director-general of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, has been named winner of the annual award for outstanding service to agriculture presented by the American National Farmers' Union.

The excellent revenue that Island farmers have obtained from a reduced potato crop is a further argument for diversifying production. Considerably more of the fruits and vegetables, fresh and canned, that are consumed in the Province could with advantage be produced here.

Communist demands for the return of all prisoners are somewhat embarrassing to U. N. negotiators. Many U. N.-held prisoners are far from anxious to be returned to Communist hands but the U. N. has already handed over a list of all prisoners held.

The Kentville Experimental Station has announced the development of a new strain of bees which have not one, but several, queens and which do not swarm. The latter characteristic should save apiarists a good deal of smoke making and pan banging.

Contagion in graft is as dangerous as in disease. It was hardly to be expected that the gross dishonesty on the part of certain U. S. A. Government officials and businessmen would escape imitation this side of the border. Crime does not pay in the long run, but the immediate profits are alluring.

Niccolò Paganini, violin virtuoso, was born at Genoa this date 1781. He studied under Costa, Rolla and Ghiretti, managing nevertheless to have an adventurous youth. At 47 he toured the capitals of Europe, amassing a fortune which he gambled away at Parma and Paris. Paganini is chiefly remembered for his wonderful technique.

A stitch in time is equivalent to anticipating beneficiary legislation and might save much discussion. Legislation to establish a Crown corporation to make loans to Ontario farmers is being drawn up at Queen's Park. Such a corporation would provide facilities for persons on farms, in towns, villages and rural areas to obtain mortgage loans where existing loan institutions will not lend mortgage money on the recognized conditions. It is estimated that some 1,000,000 persons would be eligible if they could prove need and quality, as to character, industry and initiative. Loans probably would go as high as \$15,000 and the rate of interest would be five per cent, it is learned.

In the United Kingdom it is the small men—with an income of between \$15 and \$30 weekly who pay most to the Income Tax fund. Only 60 persons in Britain had incomes of \$6,000 or more after payment of income taxes during the fiscal year ended in March, 1950, the inland revenue commissioners report. This represents a drop of 26 persons from the previous fiscal period. In the next bracket, those making \$4,000 to \$6,000 after taxes, there were 5,010 in 1949-50, compared with 5,264 in the previous year. The commissioners said most Britons earning taxable incomes—9,290,000 of them—made between \$5 and \$10 weekly and that they paid the largest part of the total tax collected.

Second Call To Education



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.

STAY ON THE FARM MOVEMENT

Sir.—Nova Scotia has its "Exit rural youth" problem as well as Prince Edward Island and to meet the shortage of farm labour thus occasioned, are importing experienced European farm hands into the Province. Press reports indicate a vanguard of one hundred men will arrive within the next few weeks, in time for Spring seeding operations and subsequent follow-up work, and the extent to which the experiment will prove successful, will determine the fact of further immigration. In the sister Province, as in our own the bemoaning of rural youth leaving the farm is based, in too many instances, on the fact that this source of cheap labour is being prematurely exhausted and replacement is costing the farm owner or operator too much money. The net returns he finally receives from his farm operations, be the latter part of that statement correct or otherwise, it yet remains that no young lad, farm born and reared, of normal development and potentiality, should be expected to remain at the hearth of his parents, with nothing more definite to anticipate than the "when I am through with it all will be yours" promise of a parent. That might have worked in the time of our distant forebears but it is not good enough for the average youth of today. Something more substantial than promises are required, agreements, possessions, and a proper division of the net income at the end of the year, are more in line with the times in which we live. Any parent who is not prepared to make some such practical overture to a son, has no legitimate complaint to offer if and when a son strikes out for himself. After a sojourn in other climes, where experience has served to satisfy the curiosity of youth, he may be inclined to return to the land of his birth and assume responsibilities and aged and tiring parent may be ready to lay down on mutually satisfactory agreement. Solving the problem of farm labour, and inducing young men to remain within or return to the confines of the Province as good citizens, and become part of an increased rural population are two distinct undertakings that invite legislative consideration and co-operation. Immigration of suitable farm labourers from other countries; a plan for the early establishment of native youth on vacant lands, and the repatriation and rehabilitation of those who helped form the exodus of youth in years gone by, but who would willingly return to their native soil if an opportunity to do so, with attractive inducements, were offered, are all involved and no individual farmer or civilian group of farmers can do much towards bringing about the consummation of what might well concern official minds. In a previous letter reference was made to a campaign of slander that was being waged against farming as an occupation in which to engage as a means of making a livelihood. The term may have appeared a bit over descriptive of what the writer intended to convey to the reader but is substantially correct. Perhaps a modification of the expression would be more palatable and the word "disparagement" kept in mind as a substitute as we go along. Is it not true that all around about us we are deluged daily with barrage after barrage from the platform, over the radio, or through the press (not by the press) depicting farming as the most undesirable occupation one could engage in, and that among the many questionable ventures one might become embroiled in, farming was at the bottom of the list. That farming was the door mat upon which every other industry wiped its feet. That there is no money in farming; that farmers have to sell what they raise or grow, below cost of production; that when it comes time for the farmer to cash in on his season's toil and labour, there is always an innumerable host of seen and unseen demons awaiting his every motion to exploit him; in fact that the world is in one vast conspiracy against the farmers, etc., etc. There is no other industry that is being so continuously besmirched as is farming. Farmers themselves are not the leaders in this grotesque picture caricaturing propaganda that is being waged to the great detriment of our agricultural industry. It is true that some of them have learned to hum the refrain but many are proud of their vocation and find it to be a profitable venture and an honourable calling. There is no other type of industry would last for a six month duration period, were it subjected to the abuse levelled at and piled upon agriculture. Is it any wonder rural youth refuse to remain on the farm? It is true agriculture or "farming" has its disadvantages and ills but surely there is a better way of applying a remedy. I am, Sir, etc., J. A. GILLIES.

The Age-Old Story

And God is able to make all grace abound toward you; that ye, always having all sufficiency in all things, may abound to every good work.

The Poet's Corner

AT THE PASSING OF A BELOVED MONARCH The Everlasting Wisdom was ordained That this rare soul, his earthly service done, Shall leave the peoples over whom he reigned For other service at a higher Throne Where life's rewarders sing at triumph won In nobleness attempted and attained Through years more terrible than any known. What is a nation's love? No little thing: A vast dumb tenderness beyond all price; Surely a power of prayer upon a wing; The living anguish of a hope to heal Offered by all hearts here in sacrifice To spirits bowed in sorrow for the King That it may touch, to comfort or amend. May this devotion help them in their grief. May the devotion kindle to resolve To make this stricken country green with leaf Glad with another hope to be again. A sun about which singing orbs revolve, A kingdom grown so worthy of her chiefs That millions yet unborn shall bless her reign. —John Masfield. The above poem by the Poet Laureate was published in London on Friday, and is sub-headed: "Our Sovereign Lord King George the Sixth of Blessed Memory."

THE CANADIAN DOLLAR

Sir.—Recently the monthly letter of one of the leading banks estimating Canada's all-over adverse balance of payments for 1951 would likely reach \$800 million which it pointed out was nothing to worry about because it was being offset by investment capital coming in just like during a previous period in our history. The writer failed to note it was British capital coming in on that occasion and that Britain required and took all of these investment earnings in Canadian goods. This time it is mostly American capital and United States in normal times will not and cannot take earnings on invested capital in the form of goods and without a favorable balance from elsewhere which we no longer have, we cannot meet these payments. So the condition the bank economist writes of is not the same but really opposite to the previous experience. In the face of our all-over unfavorable balance of trade, the Government has recently abolished the Foreign Exchange Control Board and has allegedly freed the Canadian dollar in spite of the net ownership of Canadian assets abroad of about \$5 billion mostly held in U.S. including over \$3 billion in stocks and corporation cash balances that can now be plucked onto the market overnight. Now there is a theory advanced by economists that 25% gold coverage of the paper currency (currently \$1.6 billion) plus demand deposits (currently \$2.9 billion) is sufficient. Possibly in ordinary circumstances in a creditor country this is correct enough but when one considers that the experts at Ottawa may try to hold the Canadian dollar to a limited depreciation by shipping gold while American investors in one of their wild panics sell stocks and bonds which coupled with our large adverse payments would use up the entire gold reserves, it can be readily seen this theory certainly does not apply to Canada. In short we should hold 25% in gold of our paper currency plus demand deposits plus "X" representing the degree of panic engendered in the American investors' mind when the inevitable fall in commodity prices occurs and he realizes U.S. requirements from abroad only equal 4% of their total requirements—and that Americans have too much invested abroad for so self supporting a country to ever expect to collect on it. If it is the intention of the government and/or its expert (?) advisers to really let the Canadian dollar go absolutely free and hang

PROFESSIONAL CARDS

Professional cards for J. A. Carruthers R.O. Optometrist, Frederic A. Large, Q.C., Dr. W. R. Carson, MacPhee & Trainor, Palmer & Haslam, Dr. A. L. MacIsaac, Allison M. Gillis, L.L.B., H. R. Doane and Company, G. F. Hutcheson & Son, and William A. Reddin.

Notes By The Way

They do things better sometimes in China. During a recent street car strike in Shanghai the cars ran as usual. The conductors merely refused to collect fares.—Port Arthur News-Chronicle. Beer and ale drinkers in Teek township are slightly put out today, not so much because the price of these beverages was increased two cents, a move which the Liquor Control Board of Ontario authorized in November, 1950, but because of what would appear to be pressure in enforcing the increase through the removal of draught beer from local taverns.—(Kirkland Lake News.) It is probably up to the people of Northern Ontario to set the guillotine southerners right in respect to the protection afforded to porcupines, "because they are easy to catch, and will save a man from starvation if he is lost in the bush." There is no such thing as protection for the porcupine, and the story of protection for the purpose of keeping local men from starving in the bush is sheer romance.—Sudbury Star.

Old Charlottetown (And P. E. I.)

LAND TAX FOR LIMB On March 26, 1844, in the House of Assembly, the following resolution was passed by a vote of 11-8. A tax bill in accordance with the resolution was agreed to on the casting vote of the Speaker, Hon. Joseph Pope: "Whereas, by a series of resolutions adopted by the Legislative Council, and communicated to this House by message on the 22nd inst., the Council have resolved that the introduction of lime as a manure would greatly tend to advance the agricultural interests of this Island, but in many parts thereof the want of capital prevents the establishment of lime kilns: "That the grant of One Thousand Pounds to persons willing to join in the erection of kilns, and the burning of lime, would be most beneficial, and greatly tend to increase the return to the farmer—and that their Honor will give effect to any measure tending to carry out the project proposed, if adopted by the House of Assembly: "Therefore resolved, that this House, concurring in the views entertained by the Legislative Council, is of opinion, that it is expedient that a fund be created for the above purposes, by imposing, in addition to any other assessment or tax now imposed or levied on the same, the sum of One Farthing per acre, lawful money of the currency of this Island, upon all cultivated land contained in the several Townships and Royalties therein, and in the several islands belonging or adjacent thereto; and the sum of One Halfpenny per acre, of like money, for all uncultivated or wilderness land within the same Townships, Royalties or islands."

Taxes And Morality

There might not seem to be any close relationship between tax rates and public morality. It might be more of a temptation to the average citizen to evade a heavy tax than a light one, but generally speaking the individual will react in the same way whether the amount involved be large or small. Where the difference lies, however, is in the relative positions of the honest and the unscrupulous. When taxes are at a high level the advantage of lawbreaking is greatly increased. The tax evader can well afford to spend money on protection of one kind or another. At the same time his unaccounted for profits can be a powerful lever in consolidating his business while others are hard put to exist, much less expand. In common with Prohibition, a policy of high taxation would seem to have the effect of changing the character of the business community for the worse.