

THE GUARDIAN

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CIRCULATION

"Covers Prince Edward Island like the dew"

"The Strongest Memory is Weaker Than the Weakest Ink"

CHARLOTTETOWN, WEDNESDAY, MAR. 19, 1952

Packers Sound Warning

Timely in view of the farm meetings this week are the comments in the current letter of the Industrial and Development Council of Canadian Meat Packers...

Last autumn hog marketings in both Canada and the United States were very heavy and in fact have since continued so. There were also substantial crops of oil-seeds such as cottonseed and soybeans.

The present lard yield of Canadian hogs has been running as high as, and in some cases in excess of 25 pounds per carcass. This has been due to a combination of factors.

Present heavy stocks and output of lard in relation to current demand have caused the wholesale price of lard to decline to less than 8 cents per pound. This means that for every hog processed into domestic cuts the packer is left with some 25 pounds of product worth 8 cents a pound or less.

Nurse Recruitment Campaign

The recruitment drive sponsored this week by the Association of Nurses of Prince Edward Island is of importance to all our citizens, as the need for trained nurses is expanding every year and the demand is lagging far behind the supply.

A Look At The Constitution

A nation's constitution is neither a simple nor a constant thing, although our neighbouring republic endeavoured to achieve the latter. Canada's constitution is especially complex and has been undergoing change since there was any entity that could be identified as being this country or its embryo.

useful to examine the growth of various aspects of sovereignty in this country in order to gain a clearer idea of what we have been and what we are likely to become.

This short-lived effort at description and analysis has again been undertaken by the Canadian Bar Review in its December number which has just come to hand.

Balancing expositions of the position of the Supreme Court of the United States and of the spirit of the British constitution are included by Professor Paul A. Freund and Lord Justice Sir Alfred Denning.

EDITORIAL NOTES

The Legislature resumes with a continuance of the debate on the Address.

The various agricultural groups meet at various hours during the day and evening.

Britain's two "atom ships" are on the way to Fremantle, Australia, where they will arrive about mid-April to unload equipment for tests at the atomic weapon range at Woomera in the Central Australian Desert.

Manitoba has frequently put out claims to be considered a Maritime Province and has now received a degree of Federal Government backing in its claim by being proclaimed an Admiralty District for the purposes of the Admiralty Act.

The workers in the Red Cross campaign are carrying on without benefit of campaign supporters but unless their efforts are met with a generous response there could be far more serious lacks in case of any one of a dozen types of emergency.

Maritime Central Airways continue to expand their fleet of aircraft and are bringing the northlands more closely into the communication area of this million acre landing strip in the Gulf of St. Lawrence.

The Canadian International Trade Fair is an admirable show window for trade and industry. It is to be hoped that it will be at least as well advertised in Canada as abroad this year and that Canadian products will not be among the missing.

Contamination of the atmosphere is a problem that has received but slight attention until now, but as it becomes realized that soot can disintegrate nylon hose-ry there is likely to be more determination given to finding remedies.

The Earl of Derby, who recently toured Canada, says the thing that impressed him most was the "tremendous loyalty" of Canadians to the Mother Country.

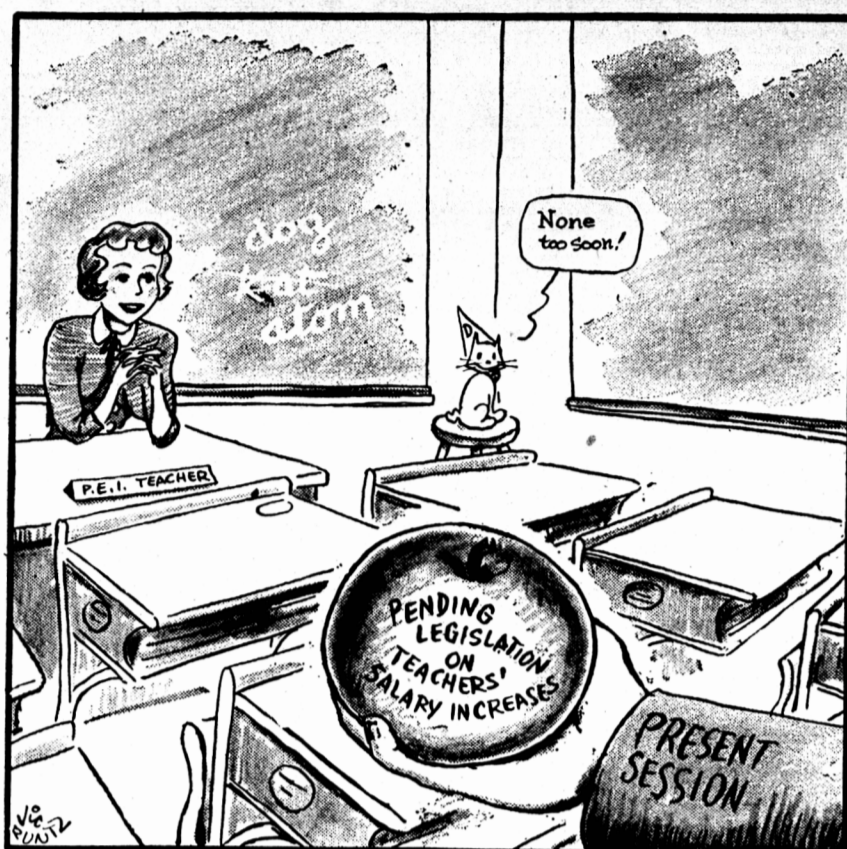
Under the old order of things, Governors-General did not pay income tax in Canada. On their private income they paid the tax in England, and were exempt on the official salary here.

The 10th Province are go-getters all right. The Public Works at Ottawa announce that negotiations are under way to purchase a site in St. John's, Nfld., for construction of a Federal building.

Pipe Major William Ross, M.B.E., principal of the Military School of Piping, Edinburgh Castle, will adjudicate at various Canadian pipe band contests, at the invitation of the Scottish Piping Association of Canada.

Arthur James, first Earl Balfour, English statesman and philosopher, died this date 1930. He was at first regarded as the scion of a noble house who played with politics because it was the tradition of his family to do so but his manner of handling the Irish secretaryship, though a disappointment to himself, raised him to be one of the most prominent of Conservative statesmen.

Apple For The Teacher



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.

UNION ROAD ISOLATED

Sir,—Having done my best and failed to interest members of the Government in the plight of the residents of Union Road who though only six miles from Charlottetown fare worse than people living at the Eastern and Western extremities of our Province, I would like through the medium of your columns to draw the attention of the public to this treatment.

Since the first storm that blocked our road we have rarely had mail delivery more than two or three times per week. This is not the fault of the courier who has done his best to give service. Nor does it seem to be lack of equipment to open the road as it is evident that less important sections receive prompt and satisfactory service on their roads.

It is a reflection on the entire Province that people such a short distance from the Capital city are needlessly left without mail service for such a long time.

CH'TOWN PUBLIC BUILDING

Sir,—At the monthly meeting of the Charlottetown City Council on March 10th, it was decided to recommend and request that His Worship Mayor J. D. Stewart accompany Premier Jones to Ottawa, with a view to urging that the Federal Public Building in Charlottetown, the Naval Barracks and other Federal projects be started immediately.

Although this is a big order in time, it is strongly endorsed in the Guardian Editorial Notes of March 12th, but while I have the greatest respect for Mayor Stewart and have known Premier Jones for a long time I am bound to state that it would be a waste of public money to send them to Ottawa on the proposed mission.

The Guardian states that citizens as a whole no doubt, are delighted to learn that His Worship Mayor Stewart has been asked by the City Council to accompany Premier Jones to Ottawa to see what can be done to hurry up the erection of the proposed Federal Building and while he is there he could see to a lot of things.

But I am not sure that the majority of the citizens of Charlottetown are behind such a move at the present time. It would seem reasonable that some of the electors of Charlottetown and the rest of Queen's County including the Premier are thinking more seriously of the mistakes of the past and the remedies for the future.

Why is it that there are no delegations coming to Ottawa from Prince or King's in connection with public works in these constituencies? It is because they have Federal Members at Ottawa, and being sensible citizens they feel that it would be an insult to belittle them by announcing that they were sending supermen to Ottawa to take out of their hands the work which they were elected to do.

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The Age-Old Story

God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore will not we fear, though the earth be removed, and though the mountains be carried into the midst of the sea.

MARKETING BOARDS

Sir,—In a recent issue of your paper, the research director of the Federation of Agriculture attempted, in discussing the Milk Boards of Great Britain, to compare it with the Potato Marketing Board in Prince Edward Island.

The potato dealers in recent years have paid into funds for the benefit of the industry about \$150,000, and were willing to support and go forward with the fund, only it was found out that the socialists were drawing from the funds and not contributing their share—and from that time on the dealers lost their confidence in the management of the fund.

If the intention behind these moves is to help the potato grower to increase his yield per acre, to keep down disease, to promote sales, to maintain quality, etc., the dealers are and have always been willing to co-operate in any way. But when the intention is socialistic domination, bureaucratic control, and jobs for people who have had little or no experience in marketing, the dealers can only see a repetition of the failure that has happened elsewhere, when all such attempts to control bulky, perishable products which are marketed over a large area failed.

We are Sir, etc. POTATO DEALERS' ASSOC.

PLAYGROUND SUPERVISORS

Sir,—When I wrote last week in connection with playground supervisors, I had not in mind that at the time the matter of dollars and cents, but rather I was occupied with the thought, Who would make the better supervisors for our children, those of mature years or youth? However, I feel sure there are many men and women who would be glad to accept the same salaries for this work that is being paid to college students.

I am, Sir, etc. A BOOKLOVER

Old Charlottetown

(And P. E. I.)

RAILWAY APPRAISERS

"During the present week the Executive Council has made the following appointments under the Act to authorize the construction of a Railroad through Prince Edward Island: To be Commissioners: Hon. James Duncan; Thos. Kelly, Summerside; James MacDonald, Montserrat; To be Appraisers: "Queen's County: William Heard, chairman; Hon. John Longworth, member and secretary; Richard J. Clark, Orwell; Duncan Crawford, Wood Islands; Donald Cameron, M.P.P., Springton, Lot 67; Donald MacKay, Wheatley River; Francis McQuaid, Head of Hillsborough.

"Prince County: Hon. Stanislaus F. Perry, chairman; Colin McLennan, member and secretary; John M. Clark, Alberton; Joseph Murphy, Lot Eleven; James Barclay, Lot Twelve; Joseph O. Arsen-

The Poet's Corner

FROM "MODERN LOVE"

Not till the fire is dying in the grate. Look we for any kinship with the stars. Oh, wisdom never comes when it is gold. And the great price we pay for it full worth: We have it only when we are half earth. Little avails that coinage to the old!

—George Meredith.

I am, Sir, etc. THOS. V. GRANT, Senator for P.E.I.

IMMORAL LITERATURE

Sir,—The Attorney General is being commended for simply doing his duty in prohibiting the sale of certain publications. However, in view of the trend on the part of several authors of "best sellers" to contribute to the moral and social evil, it would appear to be imperative that the contents of our public libraries be scrutinized to rid their shelves of uncertain literature with its demoralizing effects.

The procedure would be quite simple. The librarians throughout the Province have every opportunity to observe the reasons for "waiting lists" for certain volumes and report their findings. As any publication may be asked for by borrowers the shelves now contain very many immoral books which it is as much their duty to eliminate as that of the Attorney General to prohibit sale.

I am, Sir, etc. PARENT

Old Charlottetown

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Two Centuries Of Farming In Prince Edward Island

(From "Soil Survey of Prince Edward Island" by G. B. Whiteside, issued by Experimental Farm Service, Federal Department of Agriculture, in co-operation with the Provincial Department of Agriculture).

The history of agricultural development in Prince Edward Island covers a period of approximately 200 years, beginning with the settlement in 1728 of Acadian-French farmers from Nova Scotia.

Following their traditional custom of settling along the rivers and bays the Acadians reclaimed the salt marsh areas and cleared the adjacent forested uplands. During the period of the French regime, between the years 1713 to 1763, approximately 10,900 acres of lands were reclaimed or cleared and brought under cultivation. The type of agriculture practised was a primitive mixed-farming type, concerned primarily with supplying the needs of the settlers and of the French garrisons stationed at Louisbourg and Quebec.

The principal crops grown were wheat and peas. Early records show that in 1731 about 600 bushels of wheat and 150 bushels of peas were planted which yielded 9 to 1, and the livestock population was 433 head of cattle and 190 sheep.

After the Province was transferred to British rule a second period in agricultural development began with the arrival of settlers of British and United Empire Loyalist stock. The progress of development during this period, approximately 100 years, was to a large extent influenced by the system of land tenure in force. The Province had been divided into 67 lots. These lots had been granted to a group of individuals in Britain on terms requiring them to settle and develop their several estates. The system of leasehold land tenure was established, the settlers holding their farms at rentals of 1 to 3 shillings per acre.

This system of land tenure continued until 1875, three years after Confederation, when, under the authority of the Land Act of 1875, the Government bought the land of the absentee landlords and resold it to the settlers, enabling them to obtain freehold title to their farms.

Although the system of leasehold proved unsatisfactory and is considered to have delayed settlement and development—for instance, in 1797 there were 23 lots, about 500,000 acres, without settlers and another 18 lots with a total population of 86 families—the rate of clearing land progressed rapidly. During the 40-year period 1841-1881, the total acreage of cleared land increased 300 per cent with 100 per cent increase in improved land per farm.

While the new settlers of this period introduced improved livestock and seed, as well as new farming methods, including the Scottish seven-year rotation of grain, hoes, crop, grain, 2 years hay and 2 years pasture, the general trend of farming practices was one of exploitation of the land resources. Agriculture in the early years was necessarily a lumbering-farming type. Oats and hay were the principal crops grown; other crops planted were wheat, barley and potatoes.

As the land was cleared oats and hay were grown extensively for export. Large quantities were shipped to Great Britain and America, the trade with the Northern States expanding rapidly during the period of the American Civil War, 1860-1864. As a consequence, a considerable acreage of marginal land was cleared and brought under cultivation. Oats were grown repeatedly on many fields with little or no return of manuring materials to the land. The inevitable result of such a system of farming followed, loss of soil fertility and decreasing yields.

After the year 1875 the rate of settlement increased and an improvement in farming methods began to take place. This latter trend was partly influenced by the fact that the price of oats, consequently upon the ending of the Civil War, coupled with the lessening yields and in part by the development of the American and Canadian West.

Towards the close of the 19th Century the rate of land clearing decreased, yet the size of farms increased. This latter trend has been mainly due to the decrease in the number of farms through the combining of small units. During the last 30 years, the number of farms 100 acres or less has decreased between 15 to 30 per cent while the number of farms 200 acres or more has increased about 20 per cent. The average size of farm is 95.6.

The change in size of farms has resulted in a change in the condition of the land. A slight decrease has occurred in the area occupied by farms, due largely to the growth of urban population. Although the acreage of improved land and the crop acreage have increased there has been an increase in the area of woodland partly because areas of marginal land once under cultivation have been allowed to revert to the natural vegetation.

With the decline in the popularity of growing oats and hay for export a trend towards dairy farming developed. The first cheese and butter factories were established in 1868 and 1887 respectively. Dairying became established as a main agricultural industry about the year 1891 with 11 cheese and butter factories in operation.

In the early years of the change cheese production held an important place. The total cheese production held an important place. Many cheese factories were operating throughout the Province. With the steady fall in cheese prices since the 1920's, cheese production has given place to cream and butter production, creameries having replaced many of the cheese factories, and with the development of urban centres a local fluid-milk market has developed. The number of dairy processing plants in 1946, as given in the annual report of the Provincial Department of Agriculture, were: butter factories 16, cheese factories 8, and milk plants 8.

The change in type of farming brought many changes in farming methods, a greater increase in the improvement of livestock, the replacing of the Scottish 7-year rotation with a 4- or 5-year rotation to meet the requirements of more fodder for livestock, increased use of fertilizers and soil amendments and the growth of specialization. Since the turn of the century the acreage of wheat and oats has decreased, the decrease in wheat being sharp. Barley and mixed grains have increased rapidly, particularly so in respect to mixed crops since 1931, which, incidentally, coincides with the rapid increase in the number of swine and poultry during the same period. Field roots and cultivated hay have shown a steady increase.

The potato acreage remained steady between the years 1900-1921; a rapid increase occurred during the next 10 years, with 1931 the peak year. This was followed by a sharp decrease due to the low prices resulting from the depression and to other factors, such as curtailed export market and tariffs.

Prior to 1918 practically all the potatoes were grown and marketed as "table stock." In that year about 50 acres were grown for certified seed and the first certified seed potatoes were shipped. The seed potato industry has become a major factor in the economy of the Province; in 1946 approximately 2 3/4 million bushels of seed potatoes were exported. The Island, with its high reputation as a disease-free area for seed potatoes and having a high standard of requirement for certification, has become the principal certified seed potato producing area in Canada. Of the 400,000 acres planted to potatoes in 1946, approximately 36,000 acres were for certified seed alone; this is less than the acreage in any year between 1900 and 1921.

Within the last 15 years there has been a revival of interest in tree and small fruits production, although the actual acreage of tree fruits was smaller in 1941 than in 1931, because of heavy losses sustained as a result of the severe winter in 1930-31. Strawberry plantings have greatly increased during the last few years and there is a developing interest in cranberry and blueberry culture. The growing of canning vegetables for the canning industry, also for seed production, and more recently cucumbers for the pickling trade, are specialized types of farming being developed in some sections of the Province. The area under cucumbers alone is approximately 700 acres.

The livestock population per farm, as determined from the 1946 census figures, is approximately 23 head, not including poultry, and the average number of milk cows per farm is eight. Milk cows make up nearly half the number of cattle on the Island, indicating a dairy type of agriculture. There are many excellent herds of purebred Holstein, Guernsey, Ayrshire and Jersey cattle, with many of the grade herds of high quality. The most popular breed of beef cattle is the Short-horn, although Herefords and Aberdeen-Angus are also represented.

The number of cattle has remained fairly constant, particularly the number of milk cows. The decline in other cattle since the 1918-1921 period is due to market conditions. Swine production provides an important source of income on many farms. The approximate annual production is about 100,000 of which about 65,000 are marketed through packing plants. Only one breed is maintained, Yorkshire. This fact, coupled with careful attention to breeding and rigid selection, has resulted in the production of high quality hogs which have placed the Province in a leading position with regard to the percentage of top grade commercial hogs marketed, approximately 50 per cent.

While sheep raising holds an important place in many communities the sheep population has decreased rapidly. This is largely because of low prices, growth of the dairy industry, increased acreage of improved arable land, and since 1920 rapid increase in the potato industry.

The increase in the number of poultry has resulted from an increase in the number and size of farms, appointments under the development of specialized poultry farms, of which there are only 12 in the Province. There are 10 commercial chick hatcheries, from which 538,285 day-old chicks were distributed throughout the Province in 1946. There are also 6 poultry canning plants and 60 egg grading stations. The total egg production has increased rapidly since 1920, from 2,985,000 dozens to 6 million dozens in 1946, and the total annual value of all poultry products is approximately 2 million dollars.

DIFFERENT WEATHER

The climate of the Republic of India is different from that of Rajputana to the near-Arctic of the Himalayas.