

THE GUARDIAN

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CIRCULATION

"Covers Prince Edward Island like the dew"

"The strongest memory is weaker than the weakest ink"

CHARLOTTETOWN MONDAY, NOV. 16, 1953

Good Readers, Good Books

There has never been an age like the present one in which books of every description are available to almost everyone.

As in any kind of a boom, there are dubious developments. Publishers seeing that universal literacy has opened up markets which did not previously exist are tempted to apply the principle of the lowest common denominator as a key for widespread sales.

It is true in the book trade as in any other that the buyer has the whip hand in the long run. His tastes will be reflected in the books that are offered.

Farm Price Indexes

During the past twenty-five years or so, "index numbers" have come into general use for measuring the increase or decrease of prices, production, or income, yet a great deal of confusion exists as to their meaning.

The index of prices received by farmers, and other indexes applying to agriculture, are compiled by the Bureau of Statistics at Ottawa.

Actual prices, of course, are not comparable as between products because eggs are sold by the dozen, butter by the pound, wheat by the bushel, potatoes by the bag, livestock by the hundredweight, and apples by the box.

Thus, as recently explained by F. M. Schrader, of the Economics Division, Canada Department of Agriculture, this index is made up as follows: In order to average the prices of commodities, quoted in different units and of differing importance in production, the individual prices were weighted according to the average production of the period 1935-39.

The index of prices paid for the commodities and services used by farmers is constructed in much the same way. It indicates only the changes in the average price per unit of a fixed number of commodities and services used in farm production.

the base year. It is not a measure of the actual costs of production, because the weight or importance ascribed to each price is the same year after year and is based upon a survey of farm costs carried out in 1938.

Gross farm cash income from the sale of farm products, and net farm income, on the other hand, are not calculated in relation to a base year. The gross cash income is the total value of all farm products sold during a given period, and is secured by multiplying the price per unit by the total number of units of each commodity sold at those prices.

Net farm income has increased very markedly, as compared with 1935-39, when it averaged \$325 million a year. In 1951 it reached the \$2-billion level. Nevertheless, this comparison is not a true comparison, because a dollar in 1951 was not worth as much as it was in 1935-39.

U. S. Tariff Trend

Evidence continues to accumulate that the business community of the United States, and especially the great industrial groups, have experienced a marked change of heart on tariff policy.

Some recent calculations by Mr. Ford are of considerable interest. He has estimated that if the United States abandoned all import restrictions, the increase in purchases from abroad would approximate \$2.5 billions.

Mr. Ford's answer is blunt. Though no friend of Government subsidies, he contends that it would be better in hardship cases to make direct Government loans or grants or to provide comparable assistance than to permit a few privileged groups of inefficient producers to block the development of a rational, liberal trading policy.

EDITORIAL NOTES

The Income Tax Appeal Board has asked for trouble in ruling that an artist or entertainer may deduct the cost of costumes and make-up from taxable income.

Poliomyelitis—infantile paralysis—will become a disease of the past within the next 10 years, a Chicago doctor predicted before a gathering of mothers in St. Catharines, Ont.

Robert Owen, Welsh socialist, died this date 1858. He was a precocious lad who came to London and later moved to Manchester. He became the owner of successful cotton mills and instituted a system of co-partnership and also set up schools for infants.



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.

TEACHERS AND APPRECIATION

Sir,—I read with interest and pleasure W. I. Green's discussion—"Unrest Among Teachers", the sum of which appears in his topic.

But let me, first, mention that I agree to the condition whereby no teacher should remain in one school for less than a continuous period of two years—except where worthy reasons interfere—because, in less time than that, he cannot perform one good year's work.

Again, the teacher, who, under our present system of education, remains indefinitely in a school, or even for ten years at a stretch, is likely to become narrowed in breadth of appreciative abilities, as well as thought, in concurrence with the expansion or contraction of the limits that bound the social life of "one single community."

I am, Sir, etc., BOOKWORM

The Age Old Story

And when the servant of the man of God was risen early and gone forth, behold, an host encompassed the city both with horses and chariots. And his servant said unto him, Alas, my master! how shall we do? And he answered, Fear not for they that be with us are more than they that be with them.

Notes By The Way

If winter comes, can slush be far behind?—Hamilton Spectator.

"It is only an error of judgment to make a mistake, but it argues infirmity of character to adhere to it when discovered.

Hen-pecking, among poultry, some "superior men" will be relieved to find is confined to hens. This doesn't mean roosters are above pecking. Not a bit of it.

Lives there a man with soul so dead who never has found himself spiritually merging with the landscape, rehearsing the talk of last week's friendly party, projecting endless Walter Mitty dialogues—

Although many civilizations made use of baths, it is perhaps the Romans who brought bathing to perfection, modern bathing included.

Old Charlottetown

(And F. E. L.)

CAKES AND HORSESHOES

"Robert Parry begs leave to inform the public that he has removed to the house next door to the Laboratory, above Mr. Joseph Pippy's, where he continues to keep on hand a general supply of Pastry, Wine-Cakes, Gingerbread, &c.

When the sea has devoured the ships, And the spires and the towers Have gone back to the hills, And all the cities Are one with the plains again, And the beauty of bronze And the strength of steel Are blown over silent continents, As the desert sand is blown—

—Edgar Lee Masters

INCOME ASSURED ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT THINGS IN LIFE IS INCOME. Insurance provides a means by which income snatched away by accident, sickness or death may be replaced to an extent which will permit the family or the individual to maintain a measure of financial security.

Notes By The Way

The world moves so rapidly, says Senator Souper, that jet planes and movie starlets we've merely read about are obsolete before we get a chance to see them.—Hamilton Spectator.

The kind of humanism that thinks there is a law of inevitable progress, and that man is capable of working out his own salvation without outside help, has in the light of recent experience become bankrupt.

Office workers and others who prize the mid-morning break for a cup of coffee, will bless the name of the University of Montreal professor who says the custom is an aid to Canadian production.

The idea of sending hundreds of millions of dollars to countries which until quite recently were nothing but little spots on a map

The Poet's Corner MY LIGHT WITH YOURS When the sea has devoured the ships, And the spires and the towers Have gone back to the hills, And all the cities Are one with the plains again, And the beauty of bronze And the strength of steel Are blown over silent continents, As the desert sand is blown— My dust with yours forever.

Old Charlottetown (And F. E. L.) CAKES AND HORSESHOES "Robert Parry begs leave to inform the public that he has removed to the house next door to the Laboratory, above Mr. Joseph Pippy's, where he continues to keep on hand a general supply of Pastry, Wine-Cakes, Gingerbread, &c. Wedding Cakes furnished at the shortest notice. Also—that he continues to carry on the Blacksmith business, at Mrs. Henry May Williams's Shop, where he hopes to merit a share of public patronage."—Royal Gazette, Jan. 13, 1835.

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The Passing Scene By Observer "THE IMPENDING CRISIS" III. Thus far I have dealt (sketchily) with Dr. Keenleyside's thoughtful appraisal of world problems. He is not content, however, with diagnosing the illness that has descended on humanity; he has some suggestions concerning a remedy which may bring about at least partial recovery.

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