

Covers Prince Edward Island Like the Dew
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"The strongest memory is weaker than
the weakest ink."

THURSDAY, DEC. 15, 1955

The Late Mr. Webster

The late Mr. J. A. Webster was widely known throughout the city and Province, and news of his death last evening will be learned with deep regret. For many years he served as efficient chairman of the Water Commission, and prior to that as finance chairman in the City Council. He took an active part in early Rotary Club activities and in community enterprises of many kinds.

Like most community leaders, Mr. Webster had business interests of his own which might well have occupied his full time; but he gave freely of both his time and means to other matters, and his ability and experience were an invaluable asset to every organization with which he was connected. He was a great booster for Charlottetown, and set an example in this and other respects which will be an inspiration to others. The Guardian extends sincere sympathy to his widow and son Allison in their loss at this Christmas season.

"Tail-End" Storms

Referring to last week's blizzard which raged along the Atlantic coast, paying special attention to Nova Scotia and Newfoundland, a Canadian Press dispatch stated: "Prince Edward Island escaped the storm." This is not quite in accordance with the facts, as snow-plow operators and a goodly number of motorists can testify. Indeed, as Island storms go, this latest one was big enough and annoying enough to be entitled to a place in the record.

The dispatch, however, does point up the fact that this Island is extremely fortunate, weather-wise; and its residents have less cause than people in any other part of Canada to grumble about the behaviour of the elements. As a matter of fact, storms of every description, regardless of their origins, almost invariably subside to "tail-end" status by the time they reach our shores. Even the hurricane which visited us fall before last had been stripped of most of its power before it got around this way. A similar situation exists with respect to both heat and cold. The hottest day in summer—any summer—is relatively cool, as compared with places only a hundred miles or so away; and the coldest day in winter—any winter—is relatively mild. We know virtually nothing of floods, intense droughts, or heavy hail storms. In short, there is no place in the world where nature is kinder or more benevolent, taking one year with another.

All this, of course, is due to the Island's sheltered geographical position; but that does not excuse us from lifting up our hearts in thankfulness—more often than most of us do.

Farm Experiment

Perhaps it would not work here, and perhaps it would. At any rate there is no harm in mentioning what has been done among a large and representative group of farmers in six New England States—Maine, Vermont, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut—towards increasing production and income—by, of all people, university professors. That is to say, the professors got the project under way; the farmers themselves, of course, by using co-operative measures, made the thing pay. The project was thought up and recommended to the farmers by officials of Harvard University and the Agricultural colleges connected with the Universities in the six states mentioned. First of all, legitimate and reasonable goals were set on the theory, of course, that it is a waste of time to strive for the obviously impossible. Then, certain other matters were taken up, discussed, brought under expert

study and practical application, to wit: how to produce more and better hay, how to improve pasture, how many dairy cows could profitably be added to the herd, what new equipment should or should not be bought, how to employ labour to the best advantage.

"This has been going on now for several years; and the upshot, according to a report just issued—by two professors, incidentally—was an average milk production increase of 32%, and an average increase in income of \$1000 annually. The overall increase in farm production amounted to roughly 43%. The professors say there is no reason why all farmers could not do as well—with professional assistance, of course;—and the farmers who participated in the co-operative effort are reported to be more than satisfied.

O yes, the money for expenses came from one of those financial foundations which seems to assist in every sort of venture, from atom-splitting to haying.

A Heavy Loss

The destruction of the Prince Edward Theatre by fire early yesterday morning will be regretted by all our citizens. Down through the years, this theatre has been the major centre of entertainment and many magnificent productions have been staged within its walls, ranging from Grand Opera and Shakespearean presentations to minstrel shows and popular concerts of all kinds. In recent times, as the principal picture theatre of the F. G. Spencer Company here, it has been widely patronized and has been in continuous week-day operation, with modern facilities which have been installed at great expense to the management.

Fortunately the fire did not occur during programme hours, and no lives were lost or endangered. It was also fortunate that there was no high wind at the time, and that the firemen, in their magnificent efforts, were successful in keeping the conflagration from spreading. Nevertheless the material loss is very heavy, both to the Spencer Company and to the Masonic Temple Company and, in lesser degree, to Mr. Keenan, whose confectionery store has been gutted. A brief historical sketch of the theatre appears in today's issue, and will recall nostalgic memories to our older citizens.

EDITORIAL NOTES

The designers of the new ferry for the Wood Islands-Caribou service have been seeking a name for the boat, and "The Islander" has been suggested as the most appropriate designation. This should meet with general approval locally.

A woman in Ohio, running for municipal office, declares she is "just a plain, ordinary person". She deserves to be elected; for she must be the first woman ever to make that admission, and is therefore entitled to political distinction.

A Californian who sold an oil claim recently for one million dollars told reporters his one ambition in life is to be "left alone". He should have thought of that before he announced the sale. No man with a million can expect to be left alone.

It is not news when Negro parents in the deep South petition the courts to compel white schools to admit their children. That has been going on for years and years. A white college professor and his wife, however, made the headlines the other day when they sought a court ruling which would enable their two children to attend a school hitherto attended exclusively by Negroes.

An American educator has come up with a new explanation for India's growing friendliness with the Soviet Union. Dr. Charles Phillips, president of Bates College, Lewiston, Me., who has been on a government mission to the Far East, says that Prime Minister Nehru has no intention of joining the Communists but is talking nicely to them so as to force the West to give India more economic aid as a sort of antidote to Communist infiltration. Dr. Phillips calls this "the ancient art of black-mail"



THE FINE ART OF BIRD WATCHING

PUBLIC FORUM

THE POTATO TARIFF QUESTION

Sir—Press despatches dealing with the report of the Canadian Tariff Board regarding tariff protection for the Canadian potato industry appear on the surface to indicate a rather unfavorable attitude toward any disturbance of present tariff arrangements. Until the complete text has been carefully analyzed, however, it would be premature to offer any sweeping observations regarding the Board's statement.

The presentation to the Tariff Board was made in an exhaustive and detailed brief which was fully supported by not only the potato growers in all Provinces of Canada, but by fruit and vegetable growers from coast to coast. The presentation was prepared, not by amateur economists but by men who had expert knowledge of trade, tariff and economic problems.

The report of the Board will be in my hands today, and as I had the responsibility of presenting the all-Canadian brief and dealt largely with the Island's position at the Board hearings, I will refrain from any general comment until a proper study of the document has been made.

One of the most alarming statements to my mind that has been made public is that by the Hon. James G. Gardiner at the close of the recent discouraging Agricultural Conference, when he praised Mr. Benson, the Secretary of Agriculture for the United States, for his excellent work, and almost in the same breath cautioned against higher tariffs on imports of American potatoes entering Canada in case we may be killing a good market to retain a poor one.

Mr. Gardiner should know that while we value the seed trade with the United States, our best market is right in Canada. The rearrangement of our tariffs in keeping with vastly changed competitive conditions could not be deemed tariff retaliation on the part of our friends south of the Border, who need our seed. We are not now operating under conditions of twenty years ago, but under the vastly changed impacts of today.

The Minister's statement, if properly reported, indicates a lack of knowledge of present day conditions, and on the eve of the presentation of the Board report and study by Federal and United States authorities would seem to give strength to the position of United States representatives in their own tariffs. Surely the Minister of Agriculture of Canada by his recent somewhat premature statement and his offer of 15 cents per bushel under the provisions of the Dominion Co-operative Marketing Act has not indicated either an outstanding knowledge or sympathy with the potato industry of this Province.

The Federal Cabinet, irrespective of premature opinions, will undoubtedly make an exhaustive analysis of the Tariff Board statement; and every effort should be made to impress upon the Cabinet the unfavorable conditions under which the industry has been operating during the past few years, and the great need of immediate action to protect a vitally important industry in our own expanding domestic market.

I am, Sir, etc.,
W. R. SHAW

The Poet's Corner

WEEK-END
Saturday morning: and the barren week
Behind me is forgotten like a field
Of winter furrows, parallel and bleak,
Whose even sowing duplicates the yield.
All hours are mine in universal pause;
Free as an angel winged on heaven's brink
I do not ask if bliss is end or cause,
But toward the timeless realm of Sunday sink.
So now, and now! Sweet definitions run
In light along the pasture and the brook;
Red clover marks the path of dreams begun
With harvest apple and the fallen brook.
Oh slow to wander, oh long to take my fill
Before the Monday shadows crowd the sill.

—Beren Van Slyke

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CHARGE AGGRESSION

UNITED NATIONS, N. Y. (AP)
Syria accused Israel of aggression Tuesday and asked the UN Security Council to meet quickly and act to cope with it.



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CHARLOTTETOWN

Medically Speaking

By Herman N. Byndesen, M. D.

THE LATEST STATISTICS ON BLOOD TYPE "B"
Is your blood type "B"? Then maybe—just maybe, mind you—you might be luckier than some of the rest of us.
At any rate, a study made in various English hospitals has disclosed some interesting statistics concerning blood groups, peptic ulcers and stomach cancer.

PEPTIC ULCERS

This survey of more than 3,000 patients shows that proportionately peptic ulcers are most common in persons with type "O" blood. And statistically, cancer of the stomach is found more frequently in persons with type "A" blood. But each type has some redeeming characteristics.

Further studies show that while type "A" persons are less apt to get peptic ulcers, type "O" blood apparently affords some advantages in regard to cancer of the stomach.

Those who appear to have the most advantage are persons with type "B". Relatively few of them have either peptic ulcer or stomach cancer, the report asserts.

Of course, there are other diseases, many, many of them, which have not been checked for blood group association.

The studies did show, however, that among patients with cancer of the colon, breast, rectum or bronchus there was no significant excess in any specific blood grouping.

Diseases showing excessive susceptibility among single blood group are diseases of the stomach. The vast majority of persons, about three-quarters of them, secrete their blood group substance in the gastric juice.

A theory derived from the British studies is that the "A" substance may tend to cause cancer while both the "A" and "B" types offer a protection against peptic ulcer and "O" and "B" protect against stomach cancer. Why this may be so, we don't know. Structurally, the "A", "B", and "O" substances are similar.

Eventually, science may solve this riddle.

QUESTION AND ANSWER

A.D.: When I smoke a cigarette, I get very nervous and my heart beats fast. What causes this?

Answer: In many persons, the use of tobacco may cause the heart to beat faster. In general, it might be well for such persons to stop smoking.

The Age Old Story

For now we see through a glass, darkly; but then face to face: now I know in part; but then shall I know even as also I am known.

STILL ON LEFT

KARACHI (CP) — The existing road rule of "keep to the left" will be retained in Pakistan. The government has reconsidered the decision taken last year to change to the right in 1956.

NOTES BY THE WAY

A Michigan woman, celebrating her 70th wedding anniversary, calculates that her husband's hunting trips have reduced their life together by four years. But it should be pointed out to her that since he was chasing only animals he always returned to her.
— Brantford Expositor

When Canada is more prosperous than ever before, it is difficult to understand why we should turn back the clock, revive a policy of economic self-containment, contract out of the Geneva trade agreements, build hot-house industries at the people's expense and risk grave damage to our great established industries.
— Victoria Times

We see where Red China has just finished a new mausoleum for Genghis Khan, the Mongol conqueror who professed to have a mission to subdue the world. That was back in the 12th and 13th centuries. Funny how paranoid ideas recur. Here it is seven-eight centuries later and Soviet-Chinese Communists have the same mission. One way or another, by smiles or cunning by force it is the same.
— New York Journal American

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