

Published every week-day morning at 138 Prince Street, Charlottetown, P. E. I., by The Thomson Company Limited.

"The strongest memory is weaker than the weakest link."

THURSDAY, SEPT. 16, 1954

Farmers And Organized Labour

At its recent annual meeting the Brotherhood of Railroad Trainmen (U.S.A.) adopted a resolution asking for a Government investigation into the causes of declining farm prices.

The time is long past—if, indeed, it ever existed—when public indifference to a sound agricultural economy could be indulged without endangering the entire social and economic fabric.

Politics In Indonesia

The difficulty of imposing democracy on backward peoples is indicated by recent events in Indonesia. That country, liberated from Dutch rule at U. S. insistence, is scheduled to hold its first general elections on January 5.

The registration of Indonesia's estimated 45 million voters (all men and women over 18) was supposed to finish by the end of May, but in some areas has not even begun.

Voting, as in India, will be by symbols, forty-two of which have been registered, representing as many parties. Significant is the decision of the Central Election Committee that the hammer and sickle will represent not only the Indonesian Communist Party but also non-party independents.

Lobster Conservation

Not the least among matters pertaining to the Maritimes' lobster fishery which have been the subject of divergent opinion over many years, says the Moncton Transcript, is that of the prevailing system of closed and open seasons.

The report embraces the 80-year history of Canada's Atlantic lobster industry and the regulations governing it. In it Dr. Wilder expresses the opinion that the present system of closed seasons has little, if any, real value as a conservation measure.

But Dr. Wilder would not make the Atlantic Provinces lobster season wide open, as in Maine. The solution he considers most advisable would be to supercede the present system of 14 regional closed seasons with one blanket prohibitive season extending from July to September, inclusive, leaving the remaining nine months of the year open for fishing the crustaceans.

notes The Transcript, are substantially similar to those presented three years ago at a meeting of Prince Edward Island fisheries development committee by Dr. A. W. H. Needler, then the biologist in charge of St. Andrews fisheries research station.

Whether the proposed over-all closed and open seasons can be deferred much longer is a matter that now seems to call for an early decision, so that the best interests of the lobster fishery will be protected in the manner deemed most favorable.

Milk Consumption

That 80 per cent of Quebec children do not drink even 70 per cent of the recommended quantity of milk is really alarming, warns Dr. E. C. Sylvestre, director of the Quebec public health department's nutritional division.

The situation in Quebec is probably duplicated in other areas despite the fact that the dairy industry is hard put to find markets for its products. High costs are blamed for low consumption but this is far from a complete explanation.

It cannot be too greatly emphasized that milk provides nearly all the requirements of a healthful diet, its abundant use goes far towards insuring youngsters against malnutrition. Children being what they are, however, it cannot be expected that they will continue very long to take things which their parents turn down.

The emphasis on the value of milk, however, must not obscure the necessity of other essential foods. Its regular use makes it considerably easier to assure a balanced diet but cannot be accepted as a substitute for careful meal planning.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Parliament will not open until about January 13, predicts the Ottawa Citizen. There is, apparently, no decision on the matter but neither is there any pressing business to require a Fall session.

Inadequate servicing facilities is given as a reason for cancelling, at least temporarily, the move of No. 103 Search and Rescue Unit from Greenwood to Summerside. Possibly the facilities of Maritime Central Airways could be utilized in order to maintain the equipment of both Naval and Airforce units for the station.

While the official opening of the Rural Youth Fair takes place at the Exhibition grounds tomorrow, the public speaking finals to be held at Prince of Wales College this evening will also attract much interest. The Fair is one of the big events of the year for our farming communities, and it is gratifying to note the wide representation in the entry lists.

One step forward and two steps back is not unusual in human history. The Letter Review notes that while it takes only five days to fly around the world by scheduled airlines, it requires from 43 to 108 days to obtain the documents necessary for the trip. Fifty years ago a traveller could complete the journey in less time than it now takes to get started.

Sir James Hopwood Jeans, O.M., English mathematician, died this date 1946. One of his first scientific investigations was that resulting in the proof of Maxwell's law governing the distribution of velocities among molecules. His most impressive work was his explanation of planets and their satellites as being due to tidal forces raised in a star by the close passing of another star.

Much interest has been aroused in the discovery of uranium deposits in three widely separated sections of the province of New Brunswick. One find has been reported at Robinsonville on the line of the Canadian National Railways in Restigouche County and another southeast of the Upsalquitch River. Yet another find has been reported in the Harvey and York Mills area of York County.



Briefly Taking The Floor

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.

FUNDAMENTALS IN EDUCATION

Sir, — As a former Canadian teacher I was much interested in a timely question discussed at the last Easter-week convention of the P. E. Island teachers. The teachers were asked in mass to give opinions as to what constituted the fundamentals of our Province; and I was rather surprised to observe the number of subjects that were considered fundamental, according to the varied answers given by various teachers.

It seemed to me after reading the various answers, that the teachers who gave them failed to consider that certain subjects may be termed useful, and even essential, and still, properly speaking, not fundamental.

A more or less limited number among those now in our school course of studies, may be termed absolutely essential in a well-balanced and liberal education, but nevertheless, not absolutely fundamental.

The fundamental subjects, to my way of thinking, are briefly, those that are basic in the study of all other subjects. In a somewhat restricted sense reading, writing and arithmetic may very properly be considered basic in the curriculum of the common public schools of our Province. A more comprehensive category, especially for the more advanced grades of learning, would be, simply, language and mathematics. To these two, the ancient Greeks added music. But music to the Greek mind, obviously meant a great deal more to it does to modern educationists, who too often are prone to consider it as little more than a "fill-in."

The study of language, as a basic subject, should, of course, include a thorough knowledge of the grammatical rules of oral and written composition. And mathematics should include besides arithmetic, a thorough knowledge of the rudiments of algebra and geometry. And it does seem to me, that if teachers and educationists (note the modern distinction) got down, or perhaps rather back, to this simplified theory of fundamentals, that a great deal of confusion in both theory and practice would be eliminated from the schools of Canada, especially those of Ontario and the Western Provinces — not even to mention those of the United States of America.

I am, Sir, etc., M. MacKENZIE, Argyle Shore, P.E.I.

Old Charlottetown and P. E. I. REAL ESTATE SOLD

"This forenoon, Mr. Dodd sold the Kensington Brewery property, containing 26 acres, for between \$6,000 and \$7,000 — the average price per acre being about \$200. The principal buyers were Owen Connolly, Daniel Hodgson, the Messrs. Beer, and Hector MeLeod. Benj. Hearts, Esq., purchased the brewery buildings and two acres for \$1,275. A piece of land, belonging to the Merchants Bank, containing about seventy-five acres, sold for \$2,300."

—The Examiner, Sept. 11, 1882.

The Age Old Story

Is not this the fast that I have chosen? To loose the bands of wickedness, to undo the heavy burdens, and to let the oppressed go free, and that ye break every yoke? . . .

Clitheroe in Lancashire, England, established a free grammar school in 1554.

NOTES BY THE WAY

"The pedestrian seems to be disappearing in Canada," says a news story. Looking at the traffic fatalities in the country, we can well believe it. —Subury Star.

Some people are so careful of their health that they carefully put a filter in the cigaret holder, and then casually light it while passing another car on a curve at 80 miles an hour. —Brantford Sun.

Senator Soaper is freshly impressed with the speed with which technology advances: He has just met a man who, in a single lifetime, has been kicked by a horse, had an arm broken cranking a Model T, and been cut on the foot by a power lawn mower. —Hamilton Spectator.

That stout exponent of the superiority of all things American, The Chicago Tribune, must be mellowing. It has sponsored the visit of a group of Illinois politicians and business leaders to the Canadian National Exhibition to get some tips on how to run a similar show in Chicago. —Brantford Expositor.

TIPS ARE THE BANE of many people's lives and the staff of life to others. The word is supposed to have come from the old English coffee houses of the 18th century. Customers who expected service were encouraged to drop a coin into a box in the sight of a waiter. The legend on the box was "To Insure Promptness" and the first letters of each word spelled "TIP." Now, like everything else, it is a tip of the substantial bill you still have to pay. —Kitchen-Waterloo Record.

Three frightened boys, charged with stealing watermelons, stood before a stern judge in Ripley, Tenn. The judge turned to the courtroom crowd and said: "I want everybody who has never stolen a watermelon to hold up their hands." Not a hand was raised, including those of the sheriff, the county attorney and three state troopers. The case was dismissed. —New York Herald-Tribune.

An increasing population is placing increasing demands on a number of professions. Most attention has been called to the shortage of teachers and nurses, but there is a lack of engineers. And now it is revealed there is a need for many more dentists. In 1952 there was one dentist for every 2,086 Canadians, but now only one for every 2,790 — and many of these are getting up in years. This compares with one dentist for every 1,600 individuals in the United States. This suggests many Canadians are not getting the dental treatment they require, or else are getting rush jobs. That isn't good enough for a country boasting the standards of Canada. —Windsor Daily Star.

Human counsel, as has often been said, is freely given — perhaps all too freely; but Divine counsel has to be sought, through prayer and meditation, against the wilful inclination of pride and despite apparent disappointment. It demands humility, reverence, sincerity and perseverance, but when it is achieved it is achieved through a communion with God which can never be shaken. —Halifax Chronicle - Herald.

Visiting the Toronto Exhibition recently, we sat down on a bench to listen to the band of the Irish Guards. A shower of rain began to fall, and although it was too wet for comfort it was not wet enough to drive the crowd indoors, contrary to what we were told. As we sat, we were astonished to see two newboys moving among the crowd, one of them calling "Buy the Star and get all the news!" while the others shouted "Buy the Tely and keep the rain off your head!" The curious thing was that Telys seemed to be out-selling Stars, two to one. —Peterborough Examiner.

The World Council is interested in a great many things besides religion in the theological sense; in fact, theological discussion, as such, may be considered as least important activity; and considering the many diversities involved, it is perhaps just as well. Its greatest single operation has been its inter-church service to refugees; that is one field, at least, in which representatives of the 170 groups can sit down together without getting involved in argument and controversy.

There are many other fields besides in which the pooling of resources, experiences, and thought is a distinct and obvious advantage over the denominational approach. Like the United Nations in the world political sphere, the World Council of Churches does a multitude of things which rarely, if ever, get talked about. Because they are not spectacular in their effect on major problems of the hour, they are not likely to find their way into the debating forums. But it is on these routine matters — aid to refugees and displaced persons, for example — that its work will be judged and its continuance as a consultative body of Christians justified.

The same is true of the United Nations Organization. If the achievement of unity and success in great matters involving the nations were its raison d'être, it would have disintegrated long before now. It owes its present strength, such as it is, to the routine tasks in which its technicians and experts are engaged day after day.

There was considerable opposition in some American circles — including some religious denominations represented in the World Council — to the admission of delegates from Czechoslovakia and Hungary. It was felt that, even if these delegates did not attempt to stir up trouble, their presence would be a cause of embarrassment to the majority of those who came from Western nations of countries friendly to the West. Even the United States State Department was lukewarm about the idea and issued the necessary visas only after representations had been made by leading Church officials. At least one delegate was kept under constant observation during his brief stay.

As it turned out, however, those who expected ideological and political fire-works at Evanston were disappointed. There was, of course, a slight tension evident at a few points in the meetings, but at no time did it break out into open conflict. The one resolution condemning Communist persecution of religion was passed without audible opposition.

It was hardly to be expected that delegates from behind the Iron Curtain would make speeches of denunciation against their homeland government; after all they had to go back to their homes knowing full well that every word they uttered at Evanston would be recorded in Communist records. But there was evidence to show that most of the eleven delegates, at any rate, were happy to have had the privilege of sharing in a corporate act of Christian fellowship, free from the fear of anti-religious forces.

There is considerable misunderstanding abroad concerning the World Council of Churches which held its Second General Assembly in Evanston, Illinois, during the last two weeks of August. Some of the American newspapers which reported the Council's deliberations went so far as to call it the "World Church." Actually, that is the one thing it isn't. It is not even a legislative body. It makes no laws, it authorizes no formal decisions. Its resolutions and recommendations are not binding on its member Churches.

There are upwards of 170 religious denominations — large and small — represented in the World Council, no two of which think exactly alike on matters of faith and order. It can readily be seen, therefore, that it could not be called a World Church in any way, shape, or form.

Dr. W. A. Visser 't Hooft, general secretary of the Council, was so deeply disturbed by the popular misunderstanding of the Council's status and purpose that he called a press conference to correct what he called "confused thinking regarding our life and work." Dr. Visser 't Hooft, a native of Geneva, Switzerland has been the chief executive officer of the Council ever since its formal recognition at Amsterdam in 1948, and he was one of its principal designers for a decade or more before that time. He probably knows as much about the organization as anyone.

"It is completely erroneous," said Dr. Visser 't Hooft, "to suggest that the World Council is or has any ambition to be a Super-Church. There is not a single Church in the membership which desires this, nor is there one which would tolerate it." He defines the Council as "an instrument at the service of all of the Churches to assist them in their common task to manifest the true nature of the Church and must therefore never be considered as an aim in itself."

The Council is, of course, interested in religious unity (so to speak) but Dr. Visser 't Hooft made it quite clear that the Council "cannot and must not negotiate union between Churches. What it can do and should do, according to the general secretary, "is to create a situation in which there is so much in common among the Churches that they will want to become more and more united."

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The Passing Scene

By Observer THE WORLD COUNCIL

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CHARLOTTETOWN CENTENNIAL

1855 — 1955

TO ALL CITIZENS:—

Your Centennial Committee is anxious to receive your suggestions and ideas with regard to a Program for the observance of our 100th Anniversary of Incorporation as a City which will be held next year.

Items of Historical interest in the life of our City will be welcomed on loan for use in our Centennial Year.

If writing, address all correspondence to P. O. Box 307 at Charlottetown, and if phoning, kindly call 9121 from 9 A.M. to 5 P.M.

CHARLOTTETOWN CENTENNIAL COMMITTEE Per A. Walthen Gaudet General Manager.

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