

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, APRIL 5, 1954

York River Causeway

The proposal to have a causeway rather than a new bridge to replace the North River bridge is a highly interesting one. The idea has not been fully worked out or agreed upon by Federal and Provincial authorities but the announcement by the Hon. Dougald MacKinnon, Minister of Public Works and Highways, indicates that considerable thought has been given to the plan and that it will very probably be carried out.

It means that this section of the Trans-Canada Highway will be built mainly of local material in the way of fill and by local labour rather than by skilled steel workers from outside the Province using imported materials. That the movement of the necessary quantity of rock is practical is demonstrated by experience with the Gut of Canso and the local work on the Trans-Canada Highway which has already required the movement of sufficient fill to do the proposed job. Borings taken some time ago indicate that the necessary quantity of rock is available.

What it means, apart from being a section of highway, is that the North or York River will cease to be tidal. In the course of months or years its salinity will go down until in place of the present arm of the sea there will be a fresh-water lake. The changes in marine life during the process will provide a most valuable object lesson for the Fisheries Department or anyone interested in the study of marine life.

When the change to fresh water is complete this Province will have undergone a drastic geographical modification. A thousand acre lake draining some twenty-eight square miles in the centre of the Province will alter completely the water supply situation. It will also alter the character and possibilities of much of the land surrounding it.

The project might well be considered marshland reclamation on a grand scale and qualify for the funds allocated for that purpose in the Maritimes and which this Province has for the most part been obliged to forego. If that is the case then along with Federal funds for the Trans-Canada Highway aspect of the work there should be relatively little to be met out of the Provincial treasury.

Revival Of The Abacus

School superintendents in Milwaukee, goaded by the current thrust of criticism against modern teaching methods, have decided to revive the abacus, probably the most ancient device known for the teaching of arithmetic. While it is still in use in some parts of Asia, the nearest thing to it in living memory of Westerners was the old counting-frame consisting of coloured beads running on wire rods. This is a much less elaborate affair than the original abacus; even in its simplified form it is used these days very rarely, if at all.

Anyways, seven schools in the Milwaukee area have been selected as trial sites for the ancient method of computing. First, second, and third grade pupils are to be given small abaci of their own; teacher, who always has the best of everything that's on the go, will have a large and imposing one on her desk. After a year's trial, tests will show whether the pupils subjected to the primitive way learn arithmetic better and faster, or worse and slower, than youngsters who are initiated into the mathematical mysteries by the latest and most fashionable methods.

Should the tests prove the superiority of the abacus over its modern rivals, the champions of the good old days will rejoice and we may expect to see the revival of other ways and means long since discarded. Should the tests be unfavourable to the old gadget, it will mean a field day of enjoyment for those who are convinced that today is better than yesterday and that the best is yet to be. Whichever way it goes, first, second, and third graders will cling stoutly to the traditional view that learning arithmetic is hard, hard work.

Far East Strategy

Off the coast of Communist China, south of Shanghai, notes the Hamilton Spectator, the sea is peppered with the Chusan Archipelago, islands of varying sizes but of immense strategic importance in the East China Sea. On one of the biggest of these, Chusan Island itself, the Reds are building an air and naval base that will neutralize to some degree the United States base on Okinawa, almost directly opposite, 500

miles across the East China Sea. The Chusan base will also embarrass Chiang Kai-Shek in Formosa, some 500 miles south. Not much is known about this new base, but the scraps of information that have filtered through indicate that it has submarine pens, a first class airfield and coastal defences. Communist China's navy is negligible at present, but Russian submarines, a cruiser, several destroyers and tankers have already been based on Chusan and their presence is being felt in the China seas.

It would appear that both Russia and China are united in the task of overawing Japan by building a series of bases of which the newest is Russia's Khabarovsk air base. This lies on the Siberia-Manchuria border less than 400 miles from Hokkaido, Japan's northern island. It is also the nearest Russian base to the United States—though still a considerable distance away.

"A new pattern of strategy is being built up in the Far East," says the Spectator. "The Communists subscribe to the fiction of defence, but it is obvious that Japan is being caught between two giant pincers. Japan herself has shown a marked reluctance to make the sacrifices demanded to ensure her future freedom in the face of the threat from the Asiatic mainland. The United States has had to promise to foot the bill for a big part of Japan's rearmament program, but it is obvious that with her other widespread responsibilities she cannot continue to act the part of financial fairy godmother. Sooner or later, Japan will have to take a searching look at the ring of steel that is being built around her and then search her own heart and decide how much freedom is worth to her and the maximum sacrifices she will make to ensure its continuance."

EDITORIAL NOTES

Princeton University scientists have discovered a compound, acrasin, which causes groups of single-cell amoebae to unite into a composite cell. Such a material existing in nature could account for much of the complexity living matter has achieved in the course of millions of years.

The Netherlands has taken rather calmly the Russian protest against the stationing of American Air Force units on Dutch bases. It seems to be generally regarded by the Dutch as nothing more than a protest against the existence of the North Atlantic Community.

"Matching grants" from the Federal Government are not unmixed blessings as pointed out by the Hon. B. Earle MacDonald, Minister of Health and Welfare. Valuable as they may be there is a limit to what the Province can afford to accept.

Ice conditions in the Gulf of St. Lawrence and Northumberland Strait seem to be unsettled according to reports of the aerial observations of the Transport Department, but far ahead of last year when there was a solid barrier of ice in the north end of the strait to the end of April.

Labrador developments require a great and increasing supply of foodstuffs and are closer to this Island than to Montreal. The Minister of Industry and Natural Resources would seem to be taking an unduly pessimistic view in declaring that it is almost economically impossible to get our products into that market.

Thieves, in Ottawa at least, seem to be able to obtain more public co-operation than the police in many parts. There have been a number of stories from across the country of people standing by when police officers badly needed their assistance. The Ottawa thieves, however, did not lack for assistance in loading a stolen safe onto a stolen truck.

Algernon Charles Swinburne, English poet, was born this date 1837. While at Oxford he met Rossetti who had gone there to do some mural paintings and it was to Rossetti that he dedicated his first published poetical drama "The Queen Mother". After a visit to Italy he took a house in Chelsea with the Rossettis and George Meredith and there produced a great variety of poems and poetic dramas, and some critical essays.

Wartime Canadian seamen were taught the Polynesian method of navigation by the stars in case they should be forced to take to the boats or rafts without modern aids to navigation. It seems that some Indonesian seamen brought up in the modern way of doing things were more at sea than our own sailors would have been when deprived of a compass. At any rate 35 of them drifted for nearly two months because they did not know anything about the older kind of navigation which enabled their ancestors to roam throughout the widespread islands of the Pacific.

Possible Unforeseen Developments



The Queen appeared fresh and buoyant despite the heavy 58-day schedule in Australia. But she has lost some weight—about a day for a hundred days was the estimate of one source—about six pounds. --News item.

Old Charlottetown

(And P. E. I.)

PIONEER FARMING

From an article entitled "The Emigrant from England to P. E. Island," appearing in the Royal Gazette, Nov. 22, 1833: "I should be glad to learn your course of labour throughout the year," said the Squire. "We collect our hay from the marshes after the New Year, get our firewood, fencing, and building timber; thresh, and feed the cattle. Towards the latter end of April, or early in May, we plough for the broken fencing, and plough for roots and wheat as soon as the frost is out of the ground—between the 20th of April and the 10th of May. Late oats and barley are sown to the latter end of June, and potatoes planted. After planting a piece of land is prepared for the summer manure."

"One week in July is taken up with statute labour, to make and repair the public roads, and a day or two for militia musters and drills. Then we hoe and harrow up the potatoes, and strengthen the fences, as the cattle are now strong and driven out of the woods by the flies. We commence hay-making about the latter end of this month, or the 1st of August, and will require a month to make our marsh and upland hay. Then the harvest is at hand, close upon the latter end of the hay, which will take another month."

"The potatoes and threshing grain for market, will take up the next month (October), Newfoundland and Halifax are our markets, and so fluctuating, that when we have any produce worth notice to spare, we go ourselves with it to market, which is the only way we have to raise money for rent; and you may guess, better than I can describe, the hardship of a six weeks' voyage in our climate, when our rivers are all frozen over before we can return, and at this time for two or three pounds, in money; and sometimes we are obliged to take barter. We would not complain if we could pay our way by these means; but when we have our hay and fodder injured with rain, and a hard winter, so that we have to feed every beast from the 1st of November to the 20th of May, our potatoes and grain nearly all used to save our cattle, become short of provisions for ourselves, our cattle dying or drowned in the swamp, and torn with the bears—I have lost a seventh yearly, upon an average."

"You give a very different account, sir, to any I have seen in England," that was the reply of the Squire, but what I have read is the truth. Book makers must tell good stories; and as the books written about this Island are to please the landlords in England, and to induce emigrants to clear the land for them, the more that are deceived by them the better they will be paid. I am very much obliged for your information," said the Emigrant, "but am too late to reap much benefit. The Island appears to be healthy. I have a young family, and must make room among you."

"To make short, our Emigrant took one hundred acres of the forest, on lease, at one shilling per acre yearly rent, built premises, and commenced clearing on his own plan, spent his capital before he could raise enough for his family, and found by experience, that to farm in the English style you must have an English climate and English conveniences, and, to pay rent, there must be a regular consumption and a market. He has no time to look at and admire the beauties of the landscape, as pointed out by his author, nor any pleasure in travelling in a cariole in winter, as the roads are scarcely fit to travel upon three days at a time, being generally choked up with snow. The short summer requires the greatest exertions to plant, sow, and gather in the crop, and to provide fodder for his cattle through a long and severe winter."

Mineral resources of Alaska include the only tin mines on the North American continent. Some will think it naive and idyllic to suggest that, since God commanded man to increase and multiply, out of His goodness and wisdom, He would then permit man to do so without unreasonable and unnatural difficulties. That is, He would not command man nor give him the natural inclination to do something which would result in a situation defeating the end of the command and necessitating the performance of an act highly offensive to His Will. In other words, since God is all-wise and all-wise does it seem rash to suggest that by following His command in populating the world, we would be led to a point where the only alternative is to practice birth control.

True, it is undeniable that often times there is just not sufficient food to go around in any one place, but has man not inherited the earth, the whole earth? That is, it is quite possible that various factors will reduce resources to a per capita average below the minimum in one area, but then it is necessary for man either to migrate to other areas where resources are to be had, or to find new methods of increasing per capita distribution of resources in the home locality.

Indialogue

By Gerald Steele

4th Year S.D.U. Student

IS FAMILY PLANNING NECESSARY?

Some will think it naive and idyllic to suggest that, since God commanded man to increase and multiply, out of His goodness and wisdom, He would then permit man to do so without unreasonable and unnatural difficulties. That is, He would not command man nor give him the natural inclination to do something which would result in a situation defeating the end of the command and necessitating the performance of an act highly offensive to His Will. In other words, since God is all-wise and all-wise does it seem rash to suggest that by following His command in populating the world, we would be led to a point where the only alternative is to practice birth control.

Perhaps too the Supreme Designer did not figure on the intricacies and forces of international economics which prevent the distribution of surplus foods from one area to another. Certainly the number of children a family may have! For a country which recently espoused the tenets of democracy and whose Constitution recognized inviolable rights commanding the respect of the people and government alike, this is very good going!

In offering possible solutions, I mean them first as illustrations to demonstrate that birth control is not an absolute necessity, and secondly as remedies for the problem of over-population and under-production. Certainly these solutions, although practicable, are rather academic until the many difficulties are solved which prevent their implementation.

Increased food production is a very positive measure and can be achieved by better seed selection, more fertilizers and irrigation, more land reclamation and use of modern methods of cultivation. The combined result of these factors already is making India almost self-sufficient in food according to recent reports, telling of larger yields. To further help this process, more people should own their own land and be rid of the strangling landlord and at the same time have access to both long and short-term loans.

Another way of raising the nutritional level is the use of more synthetic foods, as rice made from tapioca, which are proving satisfactory and possible of mass production. The great waste of food consumed by useless cattle, peacocks, and monkeys should be halted and measures taken to encourage the consumption of animal flesh and products. More food from the sea is a very real possibility, both from development of fisheries and from scientific extraction of nutrients from other sea life which scientists say has possibilities of meeting the needs of large sections of the people of the world.

Both internal and external migration offer possibilities. By moving numbers of the people from more densely populated to the sparsely populated areas within the country, it is possible to relieve the concentrated area and at the same time achieve more thorough development of the resources of the less concentrated areas. Migration to other countries has a similar effect.

With increased industrialization and urbanization of the country the problem will be indirectly affected. Because urban fertility is lower than rural fertility, a decrease in population growth will result when people move to the cities. Furthermore, industrial expansion will not only provide the necessary machinery and chemicals for agricultural development, but it will give work to more people thereby boosting the whole economy.

Space does not permit further elaboration of these points nor a discussion of the many problems which they are rife. For example, we in Canada permit the entry of less than 500 Indian im-

erous, because not only is something being attempted which might have adverse effects, but other more feasible and practical ideas remain untried. It does not necessarily follow that this will happen but a practical consideration will determine its probability. When most of the best economists and social workers are plunged into the problems of family planning, can we expect them to be discovering other solutions let alone putting them into effect? Limited financial resources also determine the relative emphasis to be placed on different improvement schemes.

What then can be done? Have we tied the hands of those whose sole aim is the betterment of the Indian nation and who were capably doing just that until we came along? Apparently we haven't been noticed and there is no change in plans. Legislation now in progress, when passed through the Indian parliament, will impose a limit on the number of children a family may have! For a country which recently espoused the tenets of democracy and whose Constitution recognized inviolable rights commanding the respect of the people and government alike, this is very good going!

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The Public Forum

EDUCATION COMMITTEE REPORT

Sir,—No doubt if more of the student and permits names to appear on pass lists that might otherwise not be there. With lowered standards teachers would be even less well equipped than they are now. Attacking the top of the system will solve nothing.

While there must no doubt be some considerable change for a country student entering P. W. C. (I was from the wilds of Prince County) still let me say in plain language that the only presentation of any course I ever took in four years at P. W. C. that even remotely resembled the presentation of subsequent university courses, was that of fourth year Physics. Even in that course regular tests are given by an excellent teacher interested in the welfare of his students. There is evidence whatsoever to support the theory that teaching methods in first and second year even approach university presentation. The teachers in these years give regular tests, super-verse homework assignments when possible, give much time to extra classes for needy students (many of whom do not attend or attend irregularly) and such things exist) and are more than ordinarily interested in the future of these young people. To say that university methods are employed is a downright misstatement. The kind of teaching many are forced to do is the kind of drill and rote learning that should have received in school combined with an effort to encourage in the better students an independence of thought along disciplined lines of reasoning.

When I was asked to teach at P. W. C. I had two years' previous teaching experience. My desk was just the same small office as the three other people worked in. I could hardly have been much "closer" to the head of the department and more experienced teachers. The head of the department himself taught a first year class and was well acquainted with the problems confronting us. Ways and methods of teaching were discussed and infirmity. No one teacher ever set a final examination. The final examinations were always approved by every member of the department and every member marked one or two questions of the examination in every subject he taught. I know that department was not unique in its methods and I cannot see how greater "uniformity" can be obtained without the daily invasion of classrooms.

Students who attend school four hours a day are not over-loaded with work. To prepare for matriculation the work is spread out over two years and the added advantage of being able to take more than a minimum number of courses is inestimable. There certainly does seem to be complete chaos in the matter of salaries. This is general I believe throughout the provincial civil service. The salary received by the principal of P. W. C. is a disgrace to the Province. One can only assume that the vice-principal and registrar receive even less. I have no doubt at all that part of the reason for the large "teacher turnover" is the absence of a reasonable scale of salaries and regular increases. The teachers at P. W. C. have no more faults or virtues than any other group of teachers. They make mistakes. They try to profit by them. They work hard. They are interested in young people. That they find it necessary at times to "fall" students who sit in their own classes and write their own examinations is nothing less than a tribute to their integrity.

The behaviour of the committee in calling to present a majority report combined with their lack of regard for public money given under oath, indicates only disrespect for the truth and fair play. I am, Sir, etc., M. A. BOSWALL, Charlottetown.

Of course there is no simpler method of improving percentage pass than by lowering the standards. This is well illustrated in New Brunswick where 33 1-3 per cent is allowed in one of the five subjects required for Grade XI. The present is 25 per cent and the pass to 25 per cent and have an even higher percentage pass?—Or eliminate the examinations and pass out certificates saying, "Confined to school for eleven years?" Lowering standards involves no extra work or study by teacher or

Notes By The Way

Those who never believed a 40-hour week would be possible are now wondering when the 30-hour.—(Lethbridge Herald.)

"Schools the year round have been proposed by an American teacher. The young fry are reminding their parents that there is enough crime news as it is."—(Hamilton Spectator.)

The Dominion Bureau of Statistics reports that only 483 leather whips were made in Canada in 1952. It begins to look as though the auto belt is really here to stay.—(Edmonton Journal.)

How times have changed! Once there was a time when we could not afford a doughnut with our morning coffee. Now we cannot afford the coffee to go with the doughnut.—(St. Catharines Standard.)

The other day we read something about P. O., which we later learned was meant to signify Unidentified Flying Object, whereas we, in our ignorance, thought it meant United Farmers of Ontario!—(Peterborough Examiner.)

Out through the countryside is occurring the annual phenomena of Nature. It is the period of birth, as the flocks and herds are being replenished. Cute little pig-

migrants per year and similar restrictions exist in other countries. This would seem to rule out the possibility of external migration. As this writing attempts only to demonstrate that family planning or birth control is not of necessity in the order of things. We shall close on the implied question, "What is the obligation in a situation of this kind?"

The Poet's Corner

THE LEADEN-EYED

Let not young souls be smothered out before They do quaint deeds and fully flaunt their pride. It is the world's one crime in babes grow dull, Its poor are ox-like, limp and leaden-eyed. Not that they starve, but starve so dreamlessly; Not that they sow, but that they seldom reap; Not that they serve, but have no gods to love; Not that they die, but that they die like sheep.

—Vachel Lindsay.

The Age Old Story

How great are his signs! and how mighty are his wonders! his kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and his dominion is from generation to generation.