

THE GUARDIAN

Authorized as Second Class Mail Post Office Department, Ottawa. The Island Guardian Publishing Co. President and Associate Editor, Ian A. Burnett, Associate Editor, Frank Walker. CIRCULATION "Covers Prince Edward Island like the dew" "The strongest memory is weaker than the weakest ink". CHARLOTTETOWN, FRIDAY, APRIL 17, 1953

While The Gushers Increase

Five years ago when Canada's western oil industry had begun to establish itself, the crude oil production saved Canada \$9,000,000 in importations from the United States. Last year this saving amounted to roughly \$180,000,000—a twenty-fold increase. With vastly improved transportation facilities available this year, the amount will be still greater. Some idea of the huge expansion in western Canadian oil production may also be gained from the fact that in 1946, 64 new oil wells were opened, whereas last year the new wells numbered 1,175. Proven oil reserves increased during this period from around 40,000,000 to almost 2,000,000,000, and estimates now run close to 20,000,000,000 barrels. The principal limitation on the industry at present is neither the shortage of oil reserves nor of markets, but rather of transportation facilities. Nevertheless, production is expected to increase from 176,400 barrels per day in 1952 to more than 330,000 in 1953.

The prosperity which has come to the Western Provinces through oil resources is, of course, beneficial to the whole of Canada. Nevertheless, it is a sore point with the people of Prince Edward Island that as a landless Province we have failed to get recognition of our just claims at Ottawa in this respect. Not only do the Western Provinces enjoy huge revenues from their Crown lands, but they retain as well the substantial subsidies allocated to them in lieu thereof. To Alberta, where oil is now providing such lavish public revenue, a grant of \$375,000,000 was made to be revised upward as the population increased, "inasmuch as the said Province will not have public lands as a source of revenue." In the case of Saskatchewan the minimum grant was \$375,000,000, and to Manitoba \$562,500,000. Then in 1930, under the Natural Resources Act applicable to all three Provinces, the public lands generally in those Provinces were transferred by the Dominion to them, including all the mines, minerals and resources, while the compensation previously authorized to be paid in lieu thereof was continued on the same basis by special provision in each of the transferring statutes.

All this was set forth in the brief presented by the Prince Edward Island Government at the Federal-Provincial Conference of 1950. The modest claim was made that for Prince Edward Island, "equal and equitable treatment demands an equivalent transfer" which in our case would mean the cancellation of the land purchase loan made at Confederation (\$782,402) and payment of the full amount of \$45,000 annually since 1930.

It is to be hoped that our representatives at Ottawa will not fail to keep this issue in the foreground. In view of the circumstances the claim is indeed a moderate one. Perhaps this is why it has attracted so little attention. But the time is coming when there must be a reallocation of our national wealth on a more equitable basis, and no one who has studied the question of our land compensation claims can fail to concede its merits.

During the past few months Mr. J. O. Hyndman has drawn attention to this subject in letters appearing in The Guardian. He has striven for years to arouse public interest in the question. Some day, let us hope, we shall achieve the drive and unanimity that will enable us to capitalize on it to our lasting advantage.

New York's Plight

Smaller cities are prone to say that if they only had more population their problems would be eased. But that is not the way it works out. The more populous the city, the worse relatively its problems may become. Take New York City for example. It may be a mecca of private wealth and opulence, but it is no such mecca in civic terms. The Wall Street Journal reports that it is not an exaggeration to say that today the City of New York is edging bankruptcy. It has been running deficits for years, but until now has been able to stave off the reckoning by a number of makeshift devices. City officials have now gone to the state capital to concede that the city has come to the end of its rope. The governor has felt impelled to step in with proposals for drastic measures. The main reason for the great city's plight, notes an exchange, is that the people

acquiesced in the idea that civic, like other government, should "do something" for the people, without any regard to cost, that social service is the only criterion, that if in performing social service the government runs short of money—well, it should just go and get some more money. For instance, it seemed desirable that New Yorkers should have cheap transportation. So, the city had to subsidize the subways to the tune of \$117 million a year. The people were so happy with their 5 cent, and more recently their 10 cent, subway fare, that they never reckoned the cost in taxes, in dilapidated equipment, in inefficient and even dangerous operation. Higher education was also desirable. So it had to be given to the people of New York "free" to the tune of \$22 million a year. And so it went on down the line.

Now comes the reckoning; a city income tax on top of a city sales tax, then a higher sales tax, higher real estate taxes; new and higher business taxes; a special authority to run the subways and a higher fare to pay for them. These are to be piled upon levies already so high that there has begun an exodus of business from the once great city.

There is a moral for every community in this account of New York's predicament. It does not mean that municipal governments should follow a penny-wise, pound-foolish policy of ignoring modern requirements which would result only in stagnation and retrogression. What it does mean is that such requirements must be met on a basis of sound economy. The more ambitious the scheme the greater attention should be given to the financial problem involved. It is all too easy to follow the opposite course, because taxpayers naturally react unfavorably to tax increases. The hallmark of conscientious administration, however, is to keep the day of reckoning steadily in sight.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Syrian National Day.

Roads in some remote parts of Pakistan are classified as good macadam, good but dusty, bad and very dusty, and, at the bottom of the list, "jeepable". Presumably in the latter the passengers are apt to be in the bottom of the jeep.

Canadian sculptors will be invited to enter a competition to design a \$50,000 bronze monument of Sir Robert Borden, to be set up in Ottawa. It is hoped to have the work completed and ready for unveiling, June 6, 1954, the 100th anniversary of the birth of this illustrious Canadian.

The Director of the United States Bureau of Standards has been fired, allegedly because of something to do with prolonging the life of automobile batteries. It seems far more probable that he really got the heave-ho because of insisting that women who used to be told that they were a "perfect 36" must now wear a 48.

Ian Hay (Major General Hay Beith), English author, was born this date 1876. His earlier books, "The First Hundred Thousand" and "Carrying On", on the First World War attracted attention. They caught much of what was best in the spirit of 1914 and gave a graphic account of life in the New Armies. He also wrote comedies, children's books and works on the Second World War.

Crop pollination by honey bees has reached large proportions in the United States and is being done on a modest scale in this country. Usually an agreement is made between a regume crop seed-grower and the bee-keeper. A stated number of colonies per acre is provided and the crop return above a certain yield is divided equally between the grower and the bee-keeper.

The attractive feature of state hospitalization plans is that the individual ceases to be threatened with the crushing costs of illness to one or more members of the family. Like all such measures, however, it must be compulsory in order to be workable and fair. The Saskatchewan News, a Government publication, reports that more than \$1000 in fines has already been paid this year for failure to pay the Provincial hospitalization tax.

Both imagination and co-operation is shown by the filming of the movement of a Dutch family to Grahams Road in this Province. It is probably just as well that actual Spring conditions are to be pictured, rather than those of Summer. The early history of immigration here holds far too much of glowing accounts by agents which bore no relation at all to truth. Immigrants induced to come by the actual conditions and prospects here will certainly be better satisfied than any induced by picturing us as enjoying July in April.

Sweeping The Land



The Poet's Corner

SPRING Now fades the last long streak of snow, Now burgeons every maze of quick About the flowering squares, and thick Ey ashens roots the violets blow. Now rings the woodland loud and long. The distance takes a lovelier hue And drowns in lovelier living blue The lark becomes a sightless song. Now dance the lights on lawn and lea, The flocks are whiter down the vale, And milkier every milky sail. On winding stream or distant sea: Where now the seaweep pipes, or dives In yonder greening green, and fly The happy birds, that change their sky To build and brood, that live their lives. —Lord Tennyson

Coronation Seat

(National Geographic News) An old oak chair, battered and mutilated, will stand as the focal point of Queen Elizabeth II's solemn coronation ritual on June 2nd. Appearance, however, cannot mar the historic symbolism of 652-year-old King Edward's Chair, on which 27 British monarchs have sat to be crowned, says the National Geographic Society. The ancient Gothic seat has lost nearly all of its original rich decoration. It has acquired, instead, scores of initials and nicks carved irreverently by tourists of bygone days when guardianship was more lax. Eighteenth century visitors especially could evade or bribe guides in Westminster Abbey for a chance to sit in the royal chair. One schoolboy, the story goes, spent the night in the Abbey on a dare. As proof of his boldness and to while away the hours, he carved in the seat of the Coronation Chair: "P. Abbott slept in this chair 5-6 July 1800."

The Coronation Chair has further suffered abuse at the hands of the expedient, the well-meaning and the angry. Nails once used to fasten coronation draperies have scarred the wood. Well-meaning decorators applied a coat of brown paint for Queen Victoria's 1887 Jubilee. This effort to modernize the proud old relic has since been scrubbed off. The Chair's worst indignity was an attempted bombing in 1941 during a suffragette demonstration. It escaped, however, and also avoided bombs of World War II, when it was safely hidden away.

The Chair was damaged as recently as 1950, when Scottish nationalists carved and splintered it in stealing the famous Stone of Scone which the chair contains. That fabulous stone, now back in place in its recess under the seat, is far more historic than the chair which was made to hold it. On the Stone, the ancient kings of Scotland were enthroned, and its legendary history proclaims it to be Jacob's pillow. Legend also links the stone with Ireland's ancient Stone of Destiny, Lia-Fail.

The Stone of Scone was captured by King Edward I when he invaded Scotland in 1296. He brought it back in triumph to London and commissioned his royal painter, Walter of Durham, to build a chair to hold it. He paid Walter five pounds for the Chair, completed in 1301. That is about \$14 today but in those times it amounted to \$500. Richly ornamented with gilt resin work and painted designs the Chair was further embellished with carved moldings and glass mosaics. A painted figure of an enthroned king, his feet on a lion,

Excavating At Tara

(Condensed from a B. B. C. talk by Professor S. P. O'Riordan, D. L. H., Professor of Archaeology, University College, Dublin. Professor O'Riordan is leading the team of archaeologists who are engaged in the excavation of Tara.) In the nineteenth century the poet Moore wrote of The harp that once through Tara's halls The soul of music shed. His theme was lament for departed glory. So in the eighteenth century an unknown poet writing in Irish notes how time has defeated Alexander and Caesar and the city of Troy, and he couples with them deserted Tara. "Grass grows on Tara, Troy is overthrown," he writes. Troy and Tara, Caesar and Alexander are for him figures of greatness departed. Past glory, past greatness are symbolized by Tara. It is also a site which awakens the affection of the Irish people. Scarcely a day passes but Tara has its visitors. On the Sunday before St. Patrick's Day numbers of people come to pick shamrock on the Hill of Tara — for clearly Tara's shamrock is hallowed by the soil from which it grew.

Tara's pre-eminence lies in the importance of its role in the early history of the country. While many of the places mentioned in early history or ancient tales are difficult to identify, no one doubts that the hill of Tara in County Meath is in fact identical with the ancient Teamhair — Teamhair na Ríogh, Tara of the Kings, Royal Tara. And there is the kernel of the whole story. At Tara lived kings, and these were no provincial kings but were kings of Ireland — so their glory is the glory of early Ireland and their rule meant the unity of Ireland and their seat at Tara symbolized that glory and that unity.

We are told that Tara was the chief residence of the Irish kings from the time of Slinge, who reigned in the twentieth century, B. C., and continued to be occupied until the reign of Diarmuid in the sixth century, A. D. Then, because of a quarrel between the king and St. Ruadhan, the saint cursed the place and as a result it was deserted. Between his foundation and its desertion there reigned in Tara 142 monarchs: 136 of them were pagan and six were Christian. One of the most remarkable of them, the fortieth in the succession was Oilabh Fodhla, so named because of his wisdom, for ollabh means a learned one. He established the assembly known as the Feis of Tara to be held every third year, at the feast of Samhain, corresponding to our Halloween. The foundation of this great assembly was a notable achievement — for this Feis continues to be spoken of as a national function throughout the history of Tara and it is described by early and late writers. Thus the seventeenth-century historian Keating writes: Now the Feis of Tara was a great assembly like a parliament in which nobles and scholars of Ireland... were wont to lay down and to renew rules and laws and to approve the annals and records of Ireland. There, too, it was arranged that each of the nobles of Ireland should have a seat according to his rank and adorned the high backed back. Traces of this are still visible. Four gilded lions support the seat, but they are relatively modern. King Edward's Chair, placed in the Abbey chancel facing the altar for the crowning, is not considered a true throne since it is used only for a part of the ritual. The real throne is the seat in the House of Lords from which the sovereign governs Parliament.

BATH, England, (CP) — Don Beak, who set out with his wife and two children to travel by truck to Salisbury, Southern Rhodesia, now has reported completing the journey "without even a puncture."

It was also their custom to pass six days in feasting together... making peace and entering into friendly alliances. In the third century A. D. we meet with the most notable of the names of the kings of Tara — Cormac Mac Airt. His reign is regarded as a golden age during which Tara reached the summit of its glory, and the ancient writers compare him with Solomon. In Cormac's time many of the buildings of Tara were erected, including the most magnificent of them all — the great banqueting hall. Bringing artificers from across the sea, he built at Tara the first water-mill known in Ireland. In his time there flourished Finn MacCumhail and his warriors, and connected with Cormac and Finn is the great Irish love tale concerning Grainne, daughter of Cormac, who was promised to Finn but who eloped with his lieutenant Diarmuid. To Tara came Finn and his warriors to ask for Grainne as Finn's wife and from Tara Grainne and Diarmuid eloped, to begin their epic wanderings which ended in Diarmuid's death. At Tara is a site named from Grainne, and the joint names of Diarmuid and Grainne attached to megalithic tombs throughout Ireland bear witness to their flight. In the fourth century the kings of Tara frequently raided Roman Britain. Niall of the Nine Hostages continued the raiding with vigour and it was he who brought back among his captives the boy who was to be St. Patrick, the Apostle of Ireland. Niall died in one of his raids, about A. D. 427, and was succeeded by his son Laoghaire in his reign occurred one of the most momentous happenings in the history of Tara — the coming of St. Patrick as missionary. Patrick's coming to Tara was the beginning of the end. We have heard of the cursing of Tara in the sixth century. After that there are still kings of Tara but there is no certainty that they lived at the site from which they took their title. Such, in brief, is the story. Before we try to evaluate it let us look at the site itself. The Hill of Tara, about twenty miles north of Dublin, is not a great eminence. It is a north-south ridge rising to about 500 feet above sea level, but remarkable for the prospect it commands over the plain on which it is set. On the hill we find a series of earthworks of various types — burial mounds, circular enclosures, and, at the north, two great parallel banks. Most of the individual sites are now marked with plaques which give the names by which they have been identified. The identifications are based on a medieval tract known as the Dinnsenchas, in which the notable places in early Ireland are described and in which Tara is given pride of place. Not only are the Tara sites named in the tract, but their position is given in relation to one another. So we find the burial mound known as the Mound of the Hostages, the small ring-forts known as Cormac's House, the Royal Seat and Grainne's Rath, the larger fort named from King Laoghaire, the great enclosure the Port of the Kings, and a site with concentric banks which is the Fort of the Synods. Most remarkable of all are the two parallel banks, over 700 feet long, labelled the Teach Míodhaura, or Banquet Hall. For information on this hall we have as authority not only the Dinnsenchas but also the plans of which are given in two manuscripts — the twelfth-century Book of Leinster and the fourteenth-century Yellow Book of Lecan. The plans show a rectangular building, divided into five long aisles; in which compartments are marked to show the various professions and grades of society appropriate to each. With the name of those who should occupy each cubicle is given the joint of meat appropriate to them at the banquet.

Notes By The Way

To add color and fantasy to the coronation in London, artificial nightingales are to sing in fashionable West-End Berkeley Square. The birds will be perched in appropriate positions and recordings are to be played in the living rooms of the nation are samples of the gold that covers fields on the southern end of Vancouver Island. True, they represent coin to the growers who have produced them. Yet it is pleasant to think that their value is something more than financial. There is satisfaction in knowing that we share some of our floral riches with less fortunate parts of the country. And if we must note the commercial end of the transaction, we should also take cognizance of the publicity value to this community of such shipments.—Victoria Times.

Victoria's breath of Spring went this week to the prairies, Ontario and Quebec. The biggest airlift of daffodils in the city's history was carried by chartered plane to eastern markets. Elsewhere in the living rooms of the nation are samples of the gold that covers fields on the southern end of Vancouver Island. True, they represent coin to the growers who have produced them. Yet it is pleasant to think that their value is something more than financial. There is satisfaction in knowing that we share some of our floral riches with less fortunate parts of the country. And if we must note the commercial end of the transaction, we should also take cognizance of the publicity value to this community of such shipments.—Victoria Times.

The financial needs of the Corporation of the City of Toronto surely have not reached the depth of desperation where \$1,000 a month from advertising placards on parking meters looks like big money. But apparently the Civic Works Committee thinks so highly of the idea that it has ordered a study of an offer from a firm to pay 25 per cent of its gross revenue from this advertising business. The thought evidently has not occurred to the Committee that the streets would look an undignified mess with cluttering cards beseeching the citizenry to Buy Brighter Bromide for Their Bile's Sake, or to Drive Faster with Marvelous Swift Gasoline, not a Ping in a Gallon.—Toronto Telegram.

New York is the equaler of Harlem and the breath-stopping beauty of lowers shimmering in the mist as the ship approaches; it is the fury of taxi-drivers and the serenity of children feeding pigeons; it is the heated cat ad.

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. He replenish me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters. He restoreth my soul... Yes, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me, thy rod and thy staff they comfort me... Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.

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Old Charlottetown

(And P. E. I.) ROAD IMPROVEMENTS "We have been informed that a new line of Road, six miles in length, has been opened centrally through Townships 31 and part of 32, nearly parallel to the Devises Road, in New Wiltshire, which will shorten the distance from Bedeque to Charlottetown (if continued through the eastern part of Lot 32 and parts of Townships 65, 30 and 29 in a westerly direction) several miles, and will be a superior level line, to the one formerly laid off and made in 1838, by order of government. "Also, another survey has just been completed through Townships 57, 58, 60 and 62 for a distance of ten miles, from Orwell Head, through Newtown and Montagu, towards the Wood Island Settlements, which will shorten the distance of the interior lands of the latter place, to Charlottetown (by way of the new Orwell Bridge) about seven miles. On the Estates, the property of the Rt. Hon. Thomas Earl of Selkirk, there are at present, in various directions, about forty miles opened, for new roads to be made forthwith—the principal part of which has been surveyed by Mr. Hickey, Land Surveyor, under the direction of William Douse, Esq., his Lordship's land agent, to whom much credit is due for planning out these extensive improvements, and opening so wide a field for agricultural settlers, as well as providing labour for persons located on his Lordship's Estate." —Royal Gazette, Sept. 2, 1842