

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, MONDAY, MARCH 3, 1952

The Fiery Saar

Those who have travelled the night express from Germany to Paris know they are in the environs of Saarbruecken only when the fiery glow of the blast furnaces casts an eerie glow about the window shades of their compartment. Once again those flames have become symbol of the ancient feud between France and Germany. The security of Europe, threatened by a menace greater than that of even Hitler's legions, hangs upon what the fates may have in store for this tiny but strategically important region.

Three weeks ago the countries of Europe were on the verge of an agreement regarding a six-nation European army. Then, suddenly and without advance notice, Paris appointed an "Ambassador" to the Saar, a region which until the plebiscite of 1947, had belonged to Germany. The result was an unprecedented outburst of nationalism in Germany, with Chancellor Adenauer demanding Saar concessions and a place on the Council of NATO before making commitments regarding participation in the European Army.

Repercussions in France have been no less violent. The French Government, too, has imposed new conditions on its participation in the plan for a six-nation army. The Franco-German feud has flared out anew with all the bitterness of the past.

For this unhappy situation the Saarlanders themselves are not entirely blameless. They know full well that both Germany and France covet their coal, steel and pig iron. And they know how to play their cards to their own advantage. Right now, by playing backstairs politics and diplomacy with the French, the Saar hopes to escape the penalty of reparations, take advantage of the large French market for Saar products, and avoid the discomfort of having to put up with having East Prussian refugees billeted in Saarbruecken homes.

All this looks to the Germans like a bit of fast footwork on the part of France to pocket the industrial potential of the Saar for her own national interests. The German demand is for a "fair" settlement as a condition for their participation in European defence. By a fair settlement they mean either joint administration of the region with France or, alternatively, government of the area by a United Nations commission. The problem will not be an easy one to solve.

Modern Education

Generations ago higher education was very distinctly for the few. To some extent it depended upon wealth, but principally it was a matter of selection on the basis of ability. The "lad of parts" was assisted by his family at the cost of almost any sacrifice. His teachers eagerly pushed him to the limit of his capacity and were seldom satisfied with anything short of his best.

Then came the stress on universal education. No longer was education a matter of selecting the most promising students and developing their minds to the greatest possible degree. Instead there was the aim to provide an education for all. Inevitably the standard of scholarship dropped. The brilliant academic student was as much of a problem in the classroom as the dunce and sometimes received considerably less attention.

That phase appears to be almost at an end and there seems to be an inclination to regain some of the values of the earlier approach. There can be no question, of course, of ruthlessly emptying the schools of the great majority of ordinary or even slow scholars, but it is being recognized that the brilliant student should be given the opportunity to do something resembling his or her best.

A Manitoba Example

A sound idea for soil conservation was started by 12 farmers in a small Manitoba area known as Pilot Mound. They set up a competition to see who could carry out the best system to maintain soil fertility and prevent erosion on their farms. In the spring their farms were surveyed by soil and crop specialists, who suggested methods to improve the soil in each case. At the end of the season results were assessed and each farm scored accordingly. Farmers of

the district were later invited to an Achievement Day banquet at which the results of the competition were discussed.

Advocating a wider application of this practise, the Winnipeg Free Press says it is by getting these movements under way that Western Canada will avoid travelling the hard road many areas in the United States must now follow as revealed in the President's special water report, published a year ago. One of the most significant chapters in this report, from the point of view of agriculture, was that which documented the results in soil deterioration that had resulted from past abuses, such as "mining" the soil and failure to return adequate organic matter. This factor played a main part in the general abuse of watersheds that brought on the acute water-supply problem in the U. S.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Mr. Justice Arsenault should be entitled to be known as "King-maker"; he has sworn in more than one deputy Lieut.-Governor.

There is nothing easy about hockey as it is played today and this week's schedule for the Islanders is nothing short of gruelling.

Diesels are having a hard time moving heavy traffic through snow banks, but this is more than made-up for by their facility all the rest of the year.

Maritime members of Parliament, irrespective of Party, should follow the example of the member for Westmoreland, N. B., and bring forcibly to the attention of the Government our claims for active consideration in developing such resources as we possess. The day is far past when any member of a Government should pettishly exclaim: "What are Maritime Rights?" If he does not know he has no "right" to be in power.

It is sad to read of the destruction of cattle by the hundred because of disease—human food going to waste. It recalls the days of the depression of the 'thirties when the cotton crops in the Southern States and the coffee produce of South America had the torch applied to them because of lack of markets. How appreciative everybody here should be of our present abundance. Some hae meat, and canna' eat, And some wat eat that want it. But we hae meat and we can eat, And sae the Lord be thankit.

In an editorial in the current issue of the Health League's magazine, "Health", Dr. Bates adds this comment: "The already amazing improvement in the application of discoveries in the field of preventive medicine is shown by the fact that on this continent about 20 years have been added to the average length of life since the beginning of this century. No such great advance has ever been recorded before in history. Its effects are evident in every walk of life. Yet much remains to be done."

Sir Henry Joseph Wood, English musician and conductor, was born this date 1869. He received musical instruction from his mother, acted as church organist, had general musical training at R. A. M. and played for the operatic class of Manuel Garcia. He gave many organ recitals, concerts and conducted festivals. He brought to England and America much of their knowledge of the modern Russian, German and French schools and did more than any of his contemporaries to foster appreciation of orchestral music.

The Federal Government, according to an Ottawa correspondent, is doing two things to give Canada's trade more solidity and balance. A search is underway for fresh markets for Canadian goods. And a determined effort is being made to recover those lost through post-war economic distress. Constant pressure has been placed on British authorities for the relaxation of sterling area controls against dollar area goods at the earliest possible moment. On the other hand, the feeling is that Canada could absorb a much greater volume of British goods than at present—if such goods were available.

The Labour Party Communists have reorganized in order to enter next election as a legitimate parliamentary party. They have changed their electoral policy, wiping out their claim to be revolutionary and anti-parliamentarian organization, but have not changed their constitution which reads in part: That "the bourgeois parliaments constitute one of the most important instruments of the bourgeois state machinery, cannot be won over by the proletariat any more than can the bourgeois order in general. The task of the proletariat consists in destroying the entire machinery of the bourgeois state, including all the parliamentary institutions."

Today He Can Enter The Race Too



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.

CALLING AVONLEA

Sir.—You will no doubt be very surprised to hear from far away New Zealand. For many years now I have been very interested in Prince Edward Island as my favourite author, L. M. Montgomery, set all her stories there. For this reason I would very much like to have a pen-friend who would tell me something of your lovely island and perhaps exchange illustrated papers with me. I would therefore be very glad if you would spare me a small space in your newspaper columns for this purpose. I went to the reference room in our local library and found the name of your newspaper, but not very much about Prince Edward Island.

I am, Sir, etc., (Mrs.) E. HITCHINS, 27 Euston Street, Riccarton, Christchurch, New Zealand.

P.S.—Is there really a place called Avonlea? If so I would be specially interested to hear from someone living there.—E.H.

TEACHERS' LICENSES

Sir.—This week is to be known as Education Week. Its purpose is to encourage Canadians to examine their educational system, discuss it and help bring about desirable changes. In this Province one of the urgent problems is the teacher situation, in which there is not only an alarming shortage, but also utter confusion concerning classification and salary. Of those classified as first class teachers, some obtained their license by attending college for two years, while it was necessary for the others to attend three years in order to obtain the same license.

Likewise those classified as second class teachers, some have had two years, while the others have only one year beyond Grade X. Furthermore, according to a report by the Department of Education some time ago, there were at that time seventy-seven so-called Permit teachers, seventy or more of which have one year or more beyond Grade X. In other words, those seventy have no qualifications comparable to or better than many who hold second-class licenses, yet they are classified as "Permit" teachers and receive a mere pittance as salary, very much less than those classified as second class who have no better, and in many cases, not comparable qualifications.

I have repeatedly suggested a method of overcoming this confusion and injustice, and do so again in the hope that it may receive support during discussion on education during the week, also by members of the Legislature when it meets in session. My suggestion is: That all existing licenses and the present classifications be cancelled and new ones issued on the basis of one year beyond Grade X a license classified as "temporary" Grade One license, two years Grade Two, three years Grade Three, etc. In this way all would be equally classified and paid according to qualifications. And then, if at some future time the teacher supply warrants raising the standard the temporary grade one license could be recalled unless, or until, the holder improved his standard.

There is also the factor of professional prestige involved, with the one holding the license unfairly having a much greater prestige and thus receiving a preference of engagement to teach over the Permit who has comparable or better qualifications. At teachers' meetings and conventions the Permit teachers are frequently humiliated by slighting references to their status and it is not uncommon for them to be confronted by the ratepayers and even by the pupils of their schools with the objection, "You are only a Permit teacher."

The Poet's Corner

SKERRYVORE: THE PARALLEL

Here all is sunny, and when the truant gull Skims the green level of the lawn, his wing Disparts roses; here the house is framed Of kneaded brick and the plumed mountain pine, Such clay as artists fashion and such wood As the tree-climbing urchin breaks. But there Eternal granite hewn from the living isle; And dowered with brute iron, rears a tower That from its wet foundation to its crown Of glittering glass, stands, in the sweep of winds, Immovable, immortal, eminent.

—R. L. Stevenson.

"PARENT."

"Skerryvore — The Lighthouse— "Star for seamen." ment of Education has actually handicapped the seventy permit teachers already referred to and in this way it is helping to cause an increased shortage of teachers. Is this situation fair, is it logical, is it in the best interest of education? I am, Sir, etc., "PARENT."

"FOOLS PARADISE"

Sir.—After listening to the weekly market broadcast on Thursday night I am more than ever convinced that farmers are living in "Fools Paradise." The dictionary meaning for Fools Paradise is—a state of illusory happiness; enjoyment based on false beliefs or hopes. Without doubt farmers are the world's greatest "pacifists" (one who favors the policy of setting differences by peaceful means, or price) and so long as they remain pacifists and hope for any betterment of their financial affairs—believing as a pacifist, they will remain always in "Fools Paradise." The market broadcast claims that 40c hogs was excessive, but that 25c hogs is reasonable; which convinces me that Mr. Shaw doesn't know too much about the cost of hog production. In July 1951 I purchased 53 graded 30 lb. pigs at \$15.00 each, which with feed purchased made my total investment \$2514.00; from the sale of those hogs I received \$2341.54, which meant a cash loss of \$172.46 plus all labor charges. Those hogs averaged 151 lbs. each at 29 3/8 per pound, consumed 701 lbs. of feed each and graded 62% Grade A. Perhaps Mr. Shaw will tell us the secret, also if labor and overhead charges are included in the 25c pork he calls reasonable. Surely the Department of Agriculture can supply this information as the public is led to believe the Falconwood Farm is operating unprofitably. If so, the case all therefore if such is the case all production costs should be available. It would be ridiculous to expect the average farmer to keep records of production costs if Falconwood Farm with its well paid ample staff of bookkeepers cannot supply such information. Possibly \$15.00 was too much for me to pay for a 30 lb. pig.—Mr. Shaw might look up the Department's records on this also and inform us of the cost of raising a sucker pig to 30 lbs., taking the average of the sows kept over a period of possibly three years. Surely no one would expect a farmer to work for less than the average wage at Falconwood Farm? Farmers know, they have been fooled always, because they were told so by those who fooled them. As recently as 1940, those confessions were printed daily and contrition expressed by all offenders and strong amendments promised if only we would produce for war. Yes! farmers accepted those insults because they are gullible

The Age-Old Story

If we have forgotten the name of our God, or stretched out our hands to a strange god; shall not God search this out? For He knoweth the secrets of the heart.

pacifists on the one hand and self-interest individuals on the other, otherwise they would have protected themselves against the conditions they face today.

By paying into properly organized Co-operatives and Credit Unions with efficient well-trained and well paid executives, it was possible to have built up a reserve capital that would today give us a bargaining power for all products.

(It was fear of a reserve capital in farmers' hands that prompted the P. E. I. Potato Dealers to contest the validity of Marketing Board Legislation.) Of course such a reasonable and business-like procedure wasn't necessary in Fools' Paradise, as the people who live in this Paradise will always be content,—providing others are allowed to exploit them—and in turn call names, and cry because no one down deep gives a darn, never seeming to understand that God helps only those who try to help themselves.

The farmer who always appreciate something for nothing even though it will always be the same old refrain (at that price): "You are the back-bone of any country. You do not receive fair prices. You enjoy great advantages over city people. You enjoy good fresh air, etc. etc."

The weekly market broadcast, the Federation of Agriculture, Credit Unions and many other farm organizations have not amounted to much other than dispensers of free entertainment, supplying farmers with sufficient and varied material with which they can continue their beefing and crying. Anything worth-while by way of reform has been won by aggression and sacrifice, and farmers will remain citizens of Fools' Paradise, unless Federation of Agriculture directors and other farm group leaders preach the modern way of aggression and sacrifice which is the way of Trade Unions.

I am, Sir, etc. R. E. CONNELLY, Dunstaffnage, P.E.I. February 28, 1952.

Old Charlottetown

(And P. E. I.)

CHARLOTTETOWN IN 1808

The following account, heretofore unpublished, is from the "Journal of a Voyage from Portsmouth to Quebec, 1803," by Dr. Edward Walsh, recently acquired in manuscript form by the Public Archives, Ottawa, from relatives in Ireland. The excerpts are supplementary to others which appeared recently in this column from the same source: "With advantages so decided and natural in so long-established a Colony, it is remarkable that no town until very lately has been built on the Island. In various parts of the United States, towns have risen to importance in comparatively a short period of time, with local advantages and prospects far inferior to those possessed by the Capital of Prince Edward Island. "Charlotte Town is finely situated on a rising point of land, directly facing the narrow entrance of Hillsborough Bay and between two fine deep branches of the harbour running north-east and north-west called the Hillsborough and York Rivers. There is another branch, which has southerly direction and is named Elliot's River. The Town is regularly planned, extending a mile in length and half as much in breadth, with streets of 80 and 60 feet breadth. The streets are parted off from the fields by wooden palings and produce fine herbage. The number of houses

Notes By The Way

Ontario farmers worry about prices for beef and pork and eggs. Consumers have been worrying about the same set of prices since 1940. — London Free Press.

Canada is fortunate in the possession generally of papers and news services fully alive to this duty, and editorially dedicated to the principle of safeguarding the liberties and freedoms which our ancestors won for us, and are now part of our way of life—London Free Press.

That traditional punching-bag, modern art, has taken another black eye—this time, of all places, at the dignified Art Gallery of Toronto. It seems that a practical joker secured a piece of drawing board on which commercial artists had been wiping off their brushes. He had it suitably framed, and sent it to the gallery for exhibition, under the title "Melancholia in the Swamp." The officials not only hung the repulsive thing, but one of them praised it highly as an example of advanced art. Now that the hoax has been revealed, it's a case of melancholia in the art gallery. — Edmonton Journal.

In the whole Town amounts to 72, all of wood. Many of these are mere block houses, but several are handsome, roomy and convenient.

"This Town was planned and built about 15 years ago and scarcely has a single building been added to the first number since that time, except the Barracks and the Church. These last are also of wood. The Church has a steeple and spire. The Barracks are remarkably well built and commodious. They were erected (as well as a large wooden Pier) by the ingenious Major Holland.

There are allotments of 4,000 acres each for two other Towns called George Town and Prince Town, but not a house has yet been built on either. There are several Roman Catholic chapels in different parts of the Island, but only one church and one clergyman of the Established Church. The Irish, Scotch-Highland and French settlers, comprising three-fourths of the population, are Roman Catholics.

"To raise this fair Island from a state of depression to prosperity, it is necessary to make it a Free Port—to induce New England colonists who are used to the clearing of woods, and a few substantial English farmers to become settlers—and lastly to subdivide the large Lots into smaller ones of 3 or 4 hundred acres and to offer them at a fair purchase to settlers who should become residents and cultivators."

It was in this year (1803) that the Selkirk settlers arrived in Prince Edward Island but Dr. Walsh's journal takes no note of this event, which occurred a few weeks prior to the period (Sept. 25-Oct. 8) covered by the journal.

A preposterous situation develops when a congressman proposes that the Librarian of Congress compile a full and complete list of all "subversive matter" in the Library of Congress. Aside from the fact that the proposed task of going through some 3,000,000 volumes in search of tainted matter is a phenomenal one, it is also a presumptuous one to undertake in a society where freedom of choice in most things has been one of the cardinal tenets of a successful way of life.—New York Times.

In spite of some claims by the Postmaster-General, Mr. Rinfret, that the title Royal Mail is no longer in use, local evidence markings provide ample evidence that it is. And Brantford is not the only case in point. Mr. Rinfret and Co. would be better advised to seek improvements in the postal service instead of trying to quantify nationalistic reasons for whatever the reasons are to disturb a traditional and (to tourists as well as natives) attractive and rather romantic device.—Brantford Expositor.

Francis X. Bushman, the nation's first matinee idol of the silent flickers, is now 68. He looks back fondly to the days when actors really put their all into their scenes, instead of underplaying everything. "Now an actor says without changing expression—'Hello, dear Mother's dead,'" says Bushman. "In the old days we gave it lots of feeling, breast-beating and arm-waving." In the old days actors got so wrought up they used to swear at each other in the silent films. Bushman recalls. The only trouble was that his readers wrote reproachful letters. —New York Herald Tribune.

The trouble with royalties in general in the 20th century was in not knowing how to adapt themselves to new conditions, as they should have done. Democracy and royalty are not, however, contradictory. They can walk together side by side. Thus to many people a constitutional and democratic monarchy, in which the royal family constitutes the living symbol of the nation, seems with reason to be in itself the best system. This alliance of democracy and royalty is possible. It is to be seen in Great Britain, in Holland, in Belgium, in Sweden and in Denmark. What constitutes the strength of the monarchies which exist in these countries is precisely that they are able and their strength is maintained accordingly because of character. All the people who thought it well to exchange monarchy for republic in the last 50 years have not always won. Certain among them have lost much. Contemporary history supplies blinding proof.—Le Droit, Ottawa.

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