

THE GUARDIAN

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CIRCULATION "Covers Prince Edward Island like the dew" "The strongest memory is weaker than the weakest ink."

CHARLOTTETOWN SATURDAY, AUGUST 8, 1953

A Duty And Privilege

It is no small thing to "get out the vote". Organizers of clubs and meetings know all too well that it is impossible to pick a date or time to suit everyone. On a national scale the difficulty is almost infinitely greater.

The political parties and other organizations put a great deal of effort into reminding the forgetful or aiding the shut-in to exercise their franchise. This is a very small part of the effort required to put suitable candidates in the field, determine policies which will benefit the country and at the same time command sufficient popular support to find general backing.

These preliminaries have long been accomplished by the respective parties. The issues of the day have been presented by them and their candidates. The candidates have taken every means of making themselves and their policies known to the electorate. There remains the responsibility of the voters to let nothing stand in the way of their getting to the polls.

Review And Outlook

General economic activity in Canada during the past twelve months has lost none of its essential vitality, says the current issue of the Commercial Letter published by the Canadian Bank of Commerce. It is true now, as it was a year ago, that despite superficial evidence of stability marked differences exist in the trends of contributing factors.

One of the more recognizable evidences of the shifting pressure on the Canadian economy has been a slow, uneven, decline in prices that followed the arresting of the inflationary trend during the last half of 1951.

Pointing out that at the end of the first five months of 1953 Canada's deficit balance in foreign commodity trade stood at \$210 million compared with a credit balance of \$115 million at the same point last year, the Letter explains that the deficit was largely in trade with the United States.

Origin Of "Canada"

The Canadian Board on Geographical Names, which is a branch of the Department of Mines and Technical Surveys, discusses the origin of the name "Canada", for this country, but without casting much new light on an old and controversial question. The matter comes up because an American periodical had advanced the theory that the word comes from the Spanish "aca nada", meaning "nothing here".

"Cartier's report", says the board, "appears the best evidence produced on the subject" and it thinks the Iroquois origin of "Canada" may be accepted as correct. But it discusses other theories:

"The Spanish 'aca nada' story attributed to early Spanish explorers along the Atlantic coast who found no gold seems to hold considerable appeal but little was

written of the early Spanish trips to these shores and no clear-cut or definite reference exists to support this theory. In fact many historians now question whether the Spanish ever made these early trips about which information is so vague.

"There is another belief that the name came from William and Emery de Caen, who were in New France in 1621. The biblical Canaan is also mentioned.

"It has been suggested, too, that Canada was an Indian proper name for which it is not possible to ascertain the meaning."

Others claim that the old Portuguese word, canada, meaning "strait", is the source of the country's name. The Board on Geographical Names says that if explorers of that nation applied the word to the narrowing of the St. Lawrence at Quebec before Cartier's visit and if the Indians passed this word to Cartier, this is yet another theory on the subject. However, it has never been established that early explorers from Portugal covered the territory.

Foreign Investments

The United States Department of Commerce recently made a survey of the effects of investment abroad on the import-export trade of the nation. The findings were specific. More than one-quarter of all imports, and at least one-sixth of all exports, were directly traceable to the influence of American capital invested abroad.

There is interest, too, in the fact that American investment in foreign manufacturing stood highest in Latin American countries. There the Americans had investments of \$4,657 millions; Canada ranked second with \$3,564 millions of invested capital and Eastern Europe third with \$1,773 millions.

This, notes an exchange, is a fair indication of American capital's estimate of the best markets for investment abroad. It is a judgment that Canada is in a fairly sound position to support.

Canada's investment has been primarily in Brazil, the most stable of the Latin American republics. There the Brazilian Traction Company, a Canadian operation, holds assets valued at more than three-quarters of a billion dollars. This and other Canadian capital investments in Latin America are proving the point that the American Department of Commerce has made—that the faith represented by invested capital brings very tangible benefits.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Tomorrow, the 10th Sunday after Trinity, 11th after Pentecost.

The election campaign was slow warming up but no one can say that the candidates and their supporters have not warmed to their work as election day approaches.

Charlottetown is already filling up as visitors arrive for Old Home Week. Even the weather seems to have relented and it is to be hoped that there will be nothing but sunshine for the big Fair.

It is more or less hail and farewell as Air Vice Marshal J. G. Keer, C.B.E., air officer commanding Training Command pays a familiarization visit to the schools at the R.C.A.F. Station, Summerside.

To many citizens the site of Charlottetown's first Composite Junior High School may seem somewhat remote but extensive grounds are essential for the purpose and the chosen site had the advantage of being in a rapidly developing area. With the present City boundaries there are very few suitable locations to choose from.

Moncton has its nearby Magnetic Hill and so has Charlottetown but Montreal merely has a street where "two tangents meet on a vertical curve with a parabolic form. At the off-centre crown the upward slant is reduced somewhat. It ascends vertically in the shape of a parabola; it mounts always but at different rates of incline." Perhaps what Montreal needs is a magnetic advertising agent.

Sir Godfrey Kneller, portrait painter, was born in Germany this date 1646. He provided the link between Stuart portraiture, which had been dominated by foreigners and the English national school which was founded early in the eighteenth century. He became popular in England and replaced Lely as chief court painter to Charles II. He is reputedly the most prolific portrait painter of any country, having turned out some 6000 paintings. He was also a teacher and his studio was the predecessor of the first real drawing school in London.

Salad Week Comes To An End



Early Pioneer Activities

From "Sky Pioneers and 'The Island'" 1928 By Malcolm A. Macquenn

As summer was almost over when the Selkirk settlers landed they erected at once rude cabins to shelter them from the bitter cold of winter then approaching. These were built of logs squared and dovetailed at the ends. The spaces between were filled with moss or clay. The seams were covered with birch bark. Over all a ply of boards was nailed. The roof was covered with pine shingles. The nails used in this work were of iron, made by a blacksmith in the settlement.

The windows in these little cabins were few and small as glass was dear. It took iron courage to face the first winter in this inhospitable climate, and until the harvest was garnered next autumn their minds were harassed often by the grim spectre hovering about their kitchen door.

Entering the humble cottage of the early settler one found a shoddy of Arctic simplicity. If at meal time there might be half a dozen healthy blue-eyed children, with their parents, seated on planks around the rough board table. The fare consisted of potatoes and pickled herring or dried salt cod. Oatmeal porridge was the staple breakfast dish. It was many years later before wheat flour was used daily. In the meantime, barley and buckwheat varied the oatmeal diet. Many meals were partaken without forks and knives, and those in use were generally made of horn. The teapot was always on the hearth.

Of adornments there were none. The walls and ceilings were of untouched native wood. Later it was customary to whitewash the whole interior with slaked lime. This sanitary practice continued until wallpaper was introduced.

The bedstead consisted of a rough hewn frame on which lay a home-made linn tick, filled with grass, and in later years the choicest oat chaff. At least one sheep's head was kept in the room, and filled. As domestic geese were raised in large numbers, feather ticks became common and the guest chamber was generally equipped with one.

The houses were cold. The open chimney, although healthful, allowed most of the heat to pass off without tempering the air in the chilly rooms. Beside the fireplace hung the boot-jack, fashioned from the croch of birch or maple, while over it rested an old Queen Anne rifle. Newspapers were unknown. Other books were rare, but the Gaelic Bible was in every home. By the fitful glow of the pine knot on the fireplace, the father read the nightly lesson from the sacred pages. All were warmly clothed. The men wore natural grey homespun, the women druggat. Their shoes were made in neighboring homes from cowhide tanned in the settlement. Well rubbed with warm sheep's tallow, they were impervious to water.

The settlers started at once cutting down the forest. Not being experienced woodsmen the task was very laborious and dangerous, occasionally resulting in serious injury and even death. But within a few years the young men became skilled in all the arts of woodcraft. Lumbering was the chief industry for many years. The choicest timber was used in shipbuilding. In every harbor along the coast were built ships, which, manned by daring seamen brought fame to their native isle in every leading seaport throughout the world. As early as 1825 large numbers were launched, and in that year forty vessels of 8,400 tons were built.

On each farm, for many years after the forest was cleared, isolated stumps of imposing size stood in the cultivated fields, silent reminders of the venerable monarchs that once looked down upon the meager growth of maple, spruce, birch, beech and fir around them. On one of these farms, near a spring, stood a notable stump, six feet

in diameter. This remnant of a lordly pine woodshed decay for over half a century. Finally, about 1900, it succumbed to the annual attacks of fire and axe.

Until the land was stumped all grain was cut with reaping-hooks. When the clearing was large enough, the back-breaking cradle was used. This instrument consisted of an iron blade or scythe and cradle with four hardwood fingers, adjusted to the handle. The grain fell across the fingers. The cradle strove to lay the grain in an even swath on the highest stubble to lighten the work of the binder, who followed with a hand rake. While binding the sheaf the harvester rested the handle on his shoulder. Five acres was considered a good day's cradling in average grain not broken or tangled. Cutting started before the grain was ripe. Ripe grain became so brittle in the hot sun that sometimes it could not be used for bands. In such cases binding was done in the evening and morning, when the straw was softened by the dew.

Women cut much grain with the sickle, but rarely with the cradle. In other tasks they shared equally with the men. They helped to gather the stumps, and to burn the piles. They bound, stooked, and stacked grain. They sheared the sheep and washed the wool beside these pleasant little brooks, that ran through almost every farm. The water used was warmed in iron boilers brought from Scotland.

For many years threshing was done with the flail. This instrument consisted of two hardwood bars loosely tied together at the ends by a thong, preferably of buckskin. The handle was longer than the swingle to prevent the latter hitting the hand clapping the handle. Two parallel rows of six sheaves each, were laid on the barn floor with heads together and bonds uncut. These were beaten with the flail until the straw began to curl. They were turned over with the flail, and the same punishment administered to the other side. The straw was stored for fodder and bedding. The grain was thrown into the air to separate it from the chaff. Eventually the flail was superseded by the mangle. The open cylinders first used in these implements were studded with hardwood teeth, the straw being passed back with hand rakes and forks and stored in the loft.

Wooden ploughs with wrought iron mould-board, share and colter, were long in use. In the earliest models the share and mould-board were in one piece. These were later made of cast iron in separate sections. Danes were usually held in the

The Poet's Corner

MOONLIT APPLES

At the top of the house the apples are laid in rows, And the skylight lets the moonlight in, and those Apples are deep-sea apples of green. There goes A cloud on the moon in the autumn night.

A mouse in the wainscot scratches, scratches, and then There is no sound at the top of the house of men Or mice; and the cloud is blown, and the moon again Dapples the apples with deep-sea light.

They are lying in rows there, under the gloomy beams; On the sagging floor, they gather the silver streams. Out of the moon, those moonlit apples of dreams, And quiet is the steep stair under.

In the corridors under there is nothing but sleep, And stiller than ever on orchard boughs they keep Tryst with the moon, and deep is the silence deep. On moon-washed apples of wonder.

—John Drinkwater.

Winter. A favorite time was at "house warmings" and sometimes at weddings. The Plain Quadrille, Scotch Reel, Step Dance and Highland Schottische were the favorites. Another favorite was Sir Roger de Coverly, also known as the Virginia Reel. The musical instrument generally used was the fiddle, but in default of it the mouth organ and jews-harp were sometimes used.

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The Passing Scene

By Observer

CONCERNING "GOOD GOVERNMENT"

A correspondent has asked me to put down in this column what I consider to be the essential characteristics of a "good government". It is a rather unpopular view today, I know, but somehow I cannot get over the notion that the first and chief function of any government is "to govern." The first question, therefore, that I would ask concerning any group of men seeking election is: "What are the prospects of their being able to govern wisely and well?"

And, be it remembered, there is more to governing than just making laws. Law making, in itself, does not require much skill and it requires even less wisdom. But the making of laws that reflect the best aspirations of a community — be it a small town, a city, or a nation — is another matter. This is a fine art and mediocre men are not likely to have much success in it.

More important than the making of laws, even good ones, is the ability to see to it that they are respected, and one good law that appeals to people's finer instincts is better than a hundred bad or indifferent ones that can only be supported by harsh measures. It was for this reason, no doubt, that Plato advocated as a good law as possible. Multiplicity of laws has more than once resulted in something akin to anarchy.

There are, of course, times when even the most righteous and wisest law must be accompanied by physical force. When that becomes necessary a good government will use it sternly and without hesitation. Weakness in law enforcement is not a symptom of efficient government.

In a democracy, at any rate, the will of the people is the best law, as Ulysses S. Grant said many years ago. A wise government will be ever on the alert to ascertain what that will is. There are times when any government needs to be reminded that law, to be efficacious, must spring from the people's

to be tailored by the women of the community, who were recognized as an important personage in the district. He went from house to house as his work called him.

Following the thickening, the evening was spent in step dancing and reels. When instrumental music was lacking a jigger entertained his wavering melody to the entertainment of the whole party.

The Belfast settlers, like their kinsmen of the Red River Settlement, for many years were without a settled minister. At last in 1823 there was sent to them the much revered John MacLennan. In the meantime the observance of religion was not neglected, and nothing shows more clearly their reverence for the Sabbath than their strict observance of that day.

The church was the lodestone around which centered the life of the people. Young and old alike presented themselves at divine service clothed in their best, and compared themselves in a manner befitting the sacred nature of the service. There was no endowment, but all reasonable demands were met. The people contributed willingly of what they had. The minister's stipend may seem trifling today, but it was adequate at that time. He was easily able to support himself and family in a manner befitting his station. No one was rich and it was proper that he should not have luxuries while his parishioners dined on humble fare. There was thus complete fellowship in the community.

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