

THE GUARDIAN

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"The Strongest Memory is Weaker Than the Weakest Ink."

CHARLOTTETOWN SATURDAY, APRIL 22, 1950

New Newfoundland Market

Island producers, who have already been supplying U. S. air bases in Newfoundland to some extent, should benefit by the larger demand under the new agreement made between the Dominion and United States governments.

This will mean additional millions of dollars from the United States. Already the Newfoundland Base Command has announced the opening of a procurement and purchasing office in Montreal to increase its purchase of merchandise in Canada.

The military bases will need tons of goods each month, and food will bulk large in the orders. Prince Edward Island shippers and producers should be on the alert to seize this marketing opportunity.

Ypres Anniversary

Today is the anniversary of the 2nd Battle of Ypres. On this day 35 years ago the "Canadians saved the day." Troops from the Dominion valiantly held the salient when the rest of the line broke and left them "in the air" with all supports gone.

It was declared to be one of the most glorious feats of World War One and the Canadians were publicly thanked for it by the Commander-in-Chief and by His Majesty King George V. The battle was not won without sacrifice. Many Canadian lives and many darkened Canadian homes was the price paid for victory at Ypres April 22, 1915.

In memory of those who fell the Ladies' Auxiliary of the Prince Edward Island Artillery erected in the Provincial Building a tablet which was publicly unveiled on the eighth anniversary of the battle in 1923. This tablet is to many a sacred shrine which will long stand as a tribute to a glorious victory and a memorial of proud sadness to not a few Prince Edward Islanders.

Arms Standardization

Canada's position on the important question of standardization of items of military equipment has been made clear in a speech recently by Defence Minister Claxton. This country, of course, makes comparatively few of the countless articles required to wage modern warfare, but of the equipment we do produce our capacity far exceeds the modest requirements of our own armed forces.

To make our full weight count in the defenses of the North Atlantic Treaty it is necessary that our own products should be usable by other members of the Pact and also that this country should be able to sell to those other members the war material which we do produce.

Mr. Claxton has prepared schedules of the war materials which Canada approves of treating in this way. The suggestions may or may not be accepted but a basis has been laid for negotiation of the entire problem and a direct result of Canada's action should be a rapid widening of the categories in which standardization is accomplished.

St. George's Day

Tomorrow the loyal sons and daughters of England will observe the anniversary of their patron saint, Saint George.

Many legends regarding the Saint have been woven into history, the most commonly known being his feat in killing a dragon. Saint George's Day was adopted in 1222 when the Council of Oxford ordered it to be observed as a public holiday in England.

Since the days of the legend of Saint George, England together with her Dominions and colonies has risen to slay many dragons. She has emerged with her spirit

undaunted in two world wars, and has earned the admiration, gratitude and respect of the world at large. Her present efforts to recoup and regain her former world position are being watched with interest and sympathy.

No doubt, here as elsewhere, Saint George's Day will be appropriately observed and English sons draw new inspiration from recorded deeds of the past, the struggle of the present and hope of the future.

EDITORIAL NOTES

The two-ferry service at Borden from June 15 to Sept. 15 must prove a paying proposition if it is to be repeated next year, according to Transport Minister Chevrier.

Island war veterans should now be able to have decisions on their affairs made on the spot instead of being referred to Ottawa. In addition to the saving in time, it will be much more satisfactory to know that one has been able to speak directly to the man who makes the decision.

The war has been over for almost five years so it is, perhaps, not surprising to find that already in Manitoba the pacifists, who were glad enough that we were more or less ready to oppose Hitler, are now harping back to the old refrain about not wanting to see their sons receive cadet training.

Statistics are tricky things and one may equally use them as base for argument or show that they are altogether unreliable as a guide for conduct. In any case it is most satisfactory to find the latest C. N. R. shipping report confirming the most optimistic predictions.

There has been much confusion in the matter of references to jet engines for cars, locomotives, ships and, of course, aircraft. It seems that since jet propulsion was found practical the older term, gas turbine, has been abandoned with no small loss of clarity. It would be helpful if jet propulsion were restricted to mean the thrust of expanding gasses directly propelling the vehicle.

Colonial Airlines having been much in the news recently and being treated none too gently by Canadian newspapermen over its exclusive franchise battle, it is satisfactory to be able to follow up with the story of Colonial's record of twenty years without a fatal accident. With so many reports of air crashes, the public is apt to lose sight of the fact that a great many regular airlines, including those serving the Maritimes, have a safety record of which they have every right to be proud.

Five years ago, on April 22, 1945, the Canadian public thrilled to the announcement that the 1st Canadian Corps had moved from Italy and was then fighting in Holland. The move, shrouded in secrecy and known officially as "Operation Goldflake", had taken weeks to complete. Commencing late in February, the Corps, complete with vehicles, equipment and personnel, landed at Marseilles in Southern France and trekked north almost completely under its own power. For the first time in the Second World War the Canadian Army was fighting as a whole on one front.

Pensions are fine things and it would be splendid if every citizen could be presented with a substantial one at 65 or even earlier. But like that world cruise we would all like to take, or the country estate we would all like to have, there comes the inevitable question: "Can we afford it?" Suppose we forget all about whether a citizen has a nest egg of his own and drop the means tests entirely. If we did that, if every man and woman reaching 70 got the present pension the total bill would be two or three times the current cost. If we paid a flat rate of \$50 a month at 70 the cost would be just over \$400 millions. Before we are through, says the Financial Post, we might as well take a peek at the grand prize, \$100 a month for everyone from 60. The price tag reads \$1,958,272,000, just four fifths of all the revenue Ottawa expects to be able to lay its hands on this year.

Henry Fielding was born this date, 1707, at Glastonbury and educated at Eton, where he was a contemporary of Fox and Pitt, and at Leydon. He produced a number of plays on the London stage, now long forgotten, and subsequently studied law and was called to the bar, becoming a magistrate. After the publication of Richardson's "Pamela", Fielding commenced to write "Joseph Andrews" as an avowed parody. As it grew, the original idea was lost sight of and, when published in 1742, it met with some success. "Jonathan Wild, the Great", "Tom Jones", "Amelia" and numerous other works rapidly followed. His intimate knowledge of the world of which he wrote, his mastery drawing of characters and a bracing and vigorous style place Fielding in the ranks of the greatest of English novelists.

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.

APPRECIATION

Sir.—For some time past I have felt the urge to write to Your Forum, to express appreciation of the excellent continued articles in your valuable paper. The letters on different topics are also most interesting, as well as the good and timely editorials, news, poetry, etc. etc.

During the Easter season this year I was much pleased to see "The Easter Story" by great artists, as well as the pictorial Bible stories, and I should mention the daily verse from "The Age-old Story." To those of us who have had the privilege of seeing some of these great paintings, it revives our admiration of such wonderful art, and also calls forth our appreciation of the Supreme Sacrifice provided for the salvation of mankind, finding a response in our hearts, encouraging us to better living. At this Spring-cleaning season let us clear our minds of the baser things, and endeavour once again to live on a cleaner, higher plane, in our practical everyday life, with our families and communities.

Any comments or discussion along this line? I am, Sir, etc. A RURAL MOTHER. Valleyfield West, P. E. I.

Old Charlottetown

(And P. E. I.)

INDIGENOUS TUBERS

From a letter to Charles Stewart, Esq., secretary of the Royal Agricultural Society of Prince Edward Island, from Dr. Abraham Gesner, F.R.G.S.L., dated Malpeque, 12th August, 1846:

"Since the blight in the potato began to appear in this country, my attention has been directed to the discovery of some indigenous plants that by being cultivated might supply a substitute for that valuable article of food; and during the examination of the remote parts of this Island, by geological reconnaissance in which I am now engaged, no opportunity has been lost to seek for those esculent roots upon which the ancient Indian savages partly subsisted.

"In this inquiry I have been aided by several intelligent Miamic Indians, by whose assistance I have obtained two kinds of farinaceous roots which, being employed in experimental culture, may perhaps supply finally the substitute so much desired.

"The first root of the above character was found at Hog Island, in Richmond Bay. It is called by the Indians 'mus-quassee'. At the time it was discovered (on the 13th August inst.), the top of the plant had withered, and no correct opinion could be formed respecting its appearance above ground. Bulbs, now perfectly ripe, were found in the hard-wood forest, an inch deep in the soil, which is covered by a thin layer of decayed leaves. To some bulbs the dry tops and ligaments were attached. The surface where these roots were found was completely shaded; but the soil is good and the aspect warm. They may be obtained in other parts of Prince Edward Island, but they are rare, and it was with difficulty that a pint of them could be procured by a whole Indian family.

"The average size of the bulbs is that of cherries; but a few are found of much larger dimensions. In their appearance they resemble the common potato, having apparently the peculiar indentations called eyes. The skin of the bulb is of a rusty brown colour, and the ligament by which each was nourished was found perfect, although it was dry from ripeness. The interior of the bulb is very white, and the root has the taste and odour of the potato now in use. The Indians state that this vegetable, if kept either in a dry or moist state, will not suffer any decay for a long period.

"They are very farinaceous, and contain a large percentage of starch, which resembles that of starch from wheat. By being dried the bulb shrinks a little; but it immediately expands on being thrown into warm water. As an article of food it is excellent, and as such is highly esteemed by the Indians, who generally remove every root as soon as the habituation of the plant is discovered. This plant is very different from the wild artichoke found in the neighboring Province; with it grows a long white root called by the aborigines 'ca-a-chook', which is employed by them for medicinal purposes.

"Another kind of wild farinaceous root, which is more plentiful than the one already noticed, is called by the Indians 'saa-gaa-ban'. It was found on several of the islands in Richmond Bay, but most plentiful at the bases of the sand mounds of Fish Island. Its favourite site seems to be along the skirts of the sandhills that form the lagoons along the coast, where it is nourished by decomposed seaweed and shells. It occurs in the midst of matted grass and wild tares, and frequently occupies patches of several square rods. "The leaf of the 'saa-gaa-ban' resembles the leaf of the cultivated potato. The stalk is like a small vine; the roots are situated two inches below the surface of the soil, and the bulbs, of oval figure, are strung together like beads, being attached to each other by a strong ligament. They are of a blackish brown colour, and also resemble potatoes in

Stamp Of Approval
RE: BOARDS
POTATOES, EGGS, POULTRY
The idea of setting-up marketing boards for potatoes, eggs, poultry...

The Age-Old Story

Blessed are the undefiled in the way, who walk in the way of the Lord. Blessed are they that keep His testimonies, and that seek Him with the whole heart. I shall not be ashamed when I have respect unto all Thy commandments.

their general character, being dry, farinaceous and very nutritive. They are eaten by the Indians, and have saved many from starvation at times when, from boisterous weather or other causes, they could not escape from the islands; yet they are considered by them less palatable than the 'mus-quassee'.

"The existence of both varieties, and their sites, the natives have long endeavoured to keep secret from the white inhabitants, and their preservation on the Island may be ascribed to the absence of wild animals at those isolated places, for the racoon, woodchuck and porcupine devour them greedily.

"It is my intention to send these roots without delay, after the latter is ripe, to agricultural societies in England and the neighboring Provinces, and several good farmers in this Island have already engaged to try experiments with them. This communication has been made as early as possible, in order that the above roots may be procured for seed before the approach of the winter, and it is to be hoped that farmers in general will commence their culture, by planting them in different ways, both in autumn and spring. They are as promising in their appearance as were the indigenous potatoes of Virginia, carried to Ireland by Sir Walter Raleigh, and from which the common kind was derived.

"While whole fields of potatoes are now being destroyed, the above roots remain perfectly free from disease of every kind, and at a period when an important article of food is in danger of being annihilated, no pains should be spared to discover a substitute, and as such I beg to recommend the foregoing farinaceous roots for trial; and should they improve as much by cultivation as the potato that has so long been in use, I am certain that they will be found equally wholesome, nutritious and palatable."

(The plants described by Dr. Gesner were subsequently identified as "Claytonia Virginica", or Spring-beauty, and "Glycine Apios", or Ground Nut of New England.)

NOTABLE CORPS

The United States Coast Guard was founded in 1790.

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The Poet's Corner

THE ENGLISHMAN

St. George he was for England, And before he killed the dragon He drank a pint of English ale Out of an English flagon.

St. George he was for England, And right gallantly set free The lady left for dragon's meat And tied up to a tree;

St. George he is for England And shall wear the shield he wore When we go out in armour With the battle-cross before.

—G. K. Chesterton.

GULF'S AREA

The Gulf of Mexico, an inlet situated between the United States on the north, and Mexico on the west and south, has an area of some 800,000 square miles.

OLD CAPITAL

The first Russian state was centred on Kiev in the ninth century.

ORGANIZED IN 1870

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Notes By The Way

Those who shake their heads sadly at the avidity with which the Indians have seized upon some of the bad habits of the white man will become even more lugubrious over the latest news report from the sub-Arctic. Bubble gum has popped into Duck Lake! — The Pas (Man.) Northern Mail.

With the rapid growth of the city the necessity of a bookmobile is obvious. There have been no new branches established in London since 1927. The City of Edmonton has a bookmobile and the Edmonton Journal, commenting on the annual report of the library, emphasizes the growing popularity of the bookmobile. It has recorded an increase of 15 per cent in the number of books circulated compared with last year.—London Free Press

There's irony of the first order in the story from Boston that gamblers are offering two-to-one odds that the \$1,500,000 Brink's Inc. holdup will be solved, as a result of Attorney-General Francis E. Kelly's promise of complete immunity for any "accessory" who aids in solving the three-month-old case. May be the gamblers feel that there is no honor among thieves but surely it isn't cricket of them to bet against their first cousins! — Windsor Star.

The gift by his daughter to California University of a collection of Mark Twain's manuscripts may afford evidence as to the truth of the story that all the later writings of the great humorist were censored, sometimes drastically, by his wife. "I don't suppose," he once told a friend, "that my wife has made half-a-dozen jokes in her life, and she doesn't always look on a joke as I do; a stranger might think her blind to some kinds of humor, especially the less popular brands." But, he added cheerfully, "there is one kind of silly joke she always appreciates more than any one else—that's me." —Edinburgh Scotsman.

Someone reported seeing the "first robin" the other day. Some one else said he had seen the first robin more than a month ago. Still someone else pointed out that the first robin is the one that stays all winter—and how many of these there are, who knows? That was one debate which we frankly couldn't follow, it seemed to us that something was wrong with the premise—which was that only the first person to see a robin can assert he has seen the first robin. We are for a fairer—and sure—division of wealth than this, and we don't count ourselves among the socialists in saying so. There is something predatory in the theory that the first robin is a legal and ethical object of monopoly. If we are, we grant, an accepted doctrine of these otherwise semi-enlightened times. We recognize that it is generally applied in other fields (and gardens), as in the search for the first crocus in Britain and America, or for first violets and lilies of the valley in the Vienna Woods. But we assent to "scarcity economics" we maintain—has no real function in order where there are robin enough to go round. In such an order there is either no first robin or there is a first robin for everybody—and that is the one that counts.—Christian Science Monitor.

Apples are as natural to Canadians as potatoes to the Irish. Fifty years ago every Canadian household had its barrel or two of apples to see it through the winter, and to provide the youngsters with snacks. People in smaller towns and villages never thought of buying apples—they picked their own. Now a good many Canadian families think of buying apples in quantity, but do not get beyond a basket or dozen at a time. Apples seem now to be a luxury. They are, by bulk, more expensive than this year's pineapples. Do apple growers not

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