

THE GUARDIAN

Authorized as Second Class Mail Post Office Department, Ottawa. The Island Guardian Publishing Co. Editor and Managing Director, 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 THURSDAY, SEPT. 24, 1953

Welcome Lady B.-P.

Lady Baden-Powell, of Gilwell is no stranger to this Province. Indeed there are few places on the face of the earth where the Girl Guide Movement exists with which she is not familiar and an ever-welcome guest. Her services to youth and particularly to the Rangers, Girl Guides and Brownies are so well-known that they need no repetition. She has only to pay a visit to bring renewed enthusiasm to guides and guiders alike.

It seems strange that only forty-five years ago scouting and guiding were quite unknown except to a few enthusiasts who had begun to train youth along the lines of B.-P.'s books which were intended for soldiers so that he felt obliged to issue a new version, "Scouting for Boys", followed by "The Wolf Cub's Handbook" and "Girl Guiding" which formed the basis of the great Scout and Guide movements.

Today there are comparatively few young people who do not have the opportunity to take part in the great game of growing up into fine men and women under the inspiration of B.-P. They in turn have given of their time and effort to pass on to more young people the opportunities for development and service which they enjoyed. The idea, of course, has had far wider influence than even the Movements themselves for there are few educational systems today which do not endeavour to incorporate the ideas and spirit of the Founder of Scouting and Guiding.

Old But Unhallowed

It is a far cry from the meetings now going on in Montreal of the Canadian Federation of Mayors and Municipalities and the court of Henry II who succeeded to the throne in 1154. The mayors, however, are very much concerned indeed about a state of affairs for which Henry is largely responsible.

It is recorded by Walter Map that a quarrel arose between Thurstan the dispenser and Adam of Yarmouth, whose duty it was to put the seal on official documents. Thurstan wanted a writ sealed free of charge, but Adam refused to do it for him because Thurstan had refused to let Adam have two of the king's cakes when he had guests. Henry himself intervened to bring about a reconciliation. Thurstan with bended knee handed two cakes in a napkin to Adam, who on his part handed over the document duly sealed. The king declared that his ministers should not only serve him to the best of their ability but also serve one another.

From this seemingly innocent injunction seems to stem the whole doctrine of the freedom of the Crown from taxation, a doctrine which today leaves municipalities unable to tax government buildings or those of government agencies and makes them dependent upon grace to receive any compensation whatever for the municipal services which are provided for government properties as for others within the municipality's boundaries.

Today the Crown is such an important property-holder and engaged in so many activities which are difficult to distinguish from commercial enterprises that the ban on taxing Crown property works a very real hardship on the municipalities. It is time to correct the 900-year-old error of policy and make Crown property pay its way like any other.

Income Tax Analysis

The latest annual figures issued by the Department of National Revenue confirm a fact well known to economists, that the bulk of Canada's income goes to people in modest circumstances and a small fraction of it to the rich. As it takes about eighteen months for the officials of the Government to compile such figures, the new publication covers the calendar year of 1951. While the national income has risen since that date its distribution can have changed little. It remains pretty constant from year to year, as former reports have shown.

In 1951, 2,777,950 Canadians paid income tax and it is their income only that the official figures cover. The rest of the population received incomes too low to be taxed directly (though of course they were taxed indirectly through sales and other taxes.) The income taxpayers received a total income of \$8.7 billions. As this was

roughly half the total national income, about half the total went to persons in the lowest and exempted brackets. But most of the income taxpayers, above the exemption line, are shown by these statistics to be people of moderate means.

For example, 55.25 per cent of the total income-taxpayers' earnings was received by persons earning \$3,500 a year or less, and to them must be added the millions of Canadians who were exempt from this levy. Going lower in the scale, 36.92 per cent of the taxable income was received by persons earning less than \$3,000. Only 10,070 Canadians enjoyed an income between \$10,000 and \$15,000. Their income represented 3.88 per cent of the total taxpaying income and a minute fraction of the whole national income. The whole range of income between \$25,000 and \$50,000 was received by 6,690 persons, and this group's total income was only \$221.8 millions. In the highest bracket shown in the report—over \$50,000 a year—there were 1,570 persons. The total income of this wealthy group was \$120.1 millions.

Those in the higher brackets did not receive all the income shown here. From it must be subtracted their income taxes. For example, the group receiving over \$15,000 received a total income of \$614.5 millions and it paid \$211.7 millions in income taxes, apart from other taxes. After paying their income tax, these people were left with \$402.8 millions.

Analyzing the above figures, the Winnipeg Free Press concludes that Canada's income is probably distributed as fairly as that of any nation in the world. Certainly the great bulk of it, all but a comparatively small fraction, goes to the mass of ordinary Canadians. "This fact," says our Winnipeg contemporary, "must always be the starting point of all national taxation policy. Parliament may penalize the high income brackets, at the expense of discouraging enterprise, as much as it pleases. It cannot raise any large revenues without taxing the majority of Canadians, the modest family. If any large national tax is to be levied—or any provincial or municipal tax for that matter—the ordinary Canadian cannot escape it. In the end he must pay most of the bill for any public expenditure. There is no painless way around this fact, as some politicians try to pretend."

EDITORIAL NOTES

According to one scientist, the flight of mosquitoes has been calculated up to a distance of 10 miles. They seem to be equipped properly for this jet age too.

The Provincial Plowing Match got off to a good start yesterday but today brings the real event, the selection of the Prince Edward Island champion plowman who will compete for international honors.

The Egmont Bay and Mont Carmel Exhibition yesterday lived up to its long-established reputation for high quality exhibits. The directors and exhibitors are to be congratulated on a show for which even September breezes could not cool the enthusiasm.

In common with the other Maritime Provinces we have had a great deal of unfavorable weather this year for road work. The minister and his department may well be proud that in spite of it there is yet a chance of breaking all records for amount of work done.

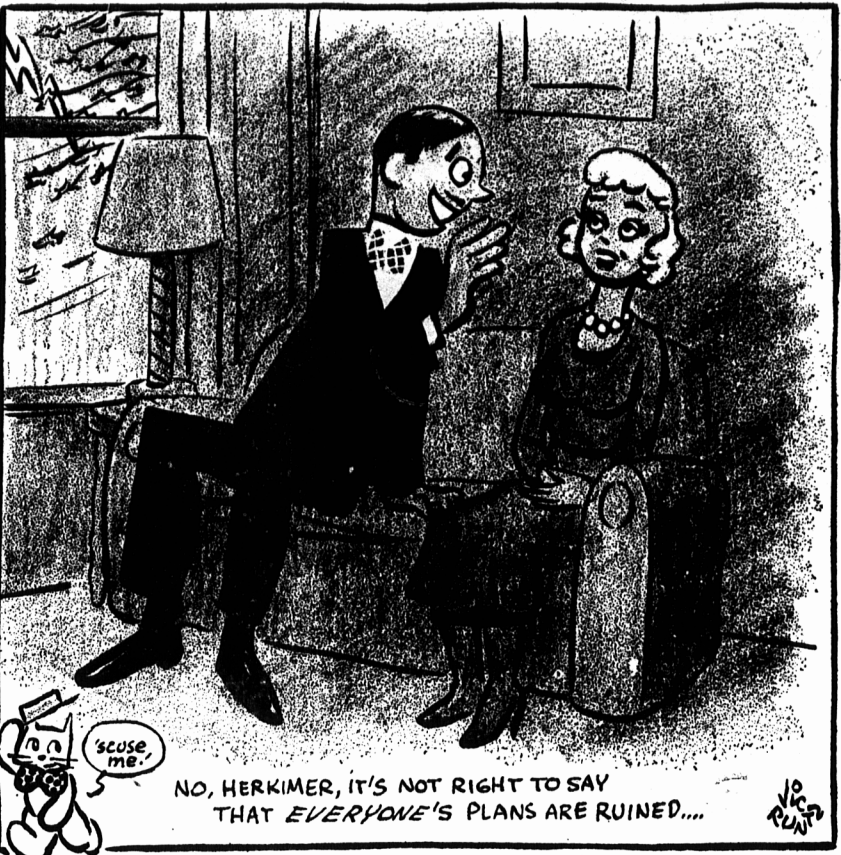
Prosperity, a housing shortage and an unemployment increase should not add up to an insoluble problem. It should not be difficult to plan and finance a building programme in Charlottetown and other Island centres which would ease the difficulties of living and making a living.

The move of an Ontario mink farmer to New Brunswick to take advantage of cheaper feed in the form of fish points up the natural advantage of the Maritimes in fur farming. With the development of the fisheries which is now going on the advantage should become even more marked.

Samuel Rutherford Crockett, Scottish novelist, was born this date 1860. He gave up the ministry to pursue a literary career. His sketches in the "Christian Leader" appeared in book form as "The Stick Minister and Some Common Men". His best known novels were "The Raiders" and "The Lilac Sunbonnet". Others included "The Grey Man", "The Men of Moss Hags" and "Sandy's Love Affair".

The withdrawal of the extra charges for the use of refrigerator cars for Maritime potatoes and vegetables is a very welcome move indeed by the two railways. The announcement refers only to the period from Oct. 15 to the end of the year but it is to be hoped that the charge will not again be imposed. Other products, such as coal or livestock, do not pay a special premium for being carried in appropriate cars.

With A Storm On And Electricity Off--



The Poet's Corner

FROG With feet in water and head in air The bullfrog sits by the river side On a stone as smooth as a russet pear And you would not know that he was there Except that suddenly from the stone A sound emerges that is not song. As if the stone had begun to groan. Having been silent for so long. And then you see him, skin like bark. Great gold eyes bulged high on head. A relic of some primeval dork. That just crept out of the river bed. —Elizabeth Jane Austley, in New York Herald Tribune.

Old Charlottetown

(And P. E. I.)

NEWSPAPER ITEMS

From The Examiner, Oct. 18, 1879: A daring robbery was committed in the Post Office corridor last evening, and the thief escaped without detection. Richard Heartz, Esq., entered the corridor and opened his Post Office box. He took out its contents, left the box open with the keys hanging to his lock, and turned towards a light to examine the addresses. While thus engaged a thief seized the keys, and when Mr. Heartz turned to lock the box he was astonished to find that they had been stolen. The bunch contained keys of Mr. Heartz's office, safe, etc.

The members of Major Pollard's Company of Garrison Artillery were yesterday and today engaged at shell and ball practice at Fort Edward. Yesterday the schooner "Emma" left Pownall Wharf for St. John's, Newfoundland. Those on board led the public to believe that the Major was firing a salute for their departure, as they dipped their flag in acknowledgement several times.

Last night the Clerk of the Stipendiary Magistrate's Court was assaulted while on the way to his dwelling house, and would, no doubt, have been badly beaten had he not made a good defence with a heavy walking cane. Mr. F. is the fifth law-abiding citizen reported assaulted during the last week.

Mr. Wilmot, of the Fishery Department, Ottawa, is now on the Island, attending to the finishing of the Fish Breeding Establishment at Dunk River, Colonel Duvar, Inspector of Fisheries, accompanied him.

William R. Watson, local druggist, advertises "Bringham's Dye for the Whiskers, in one preparation. It colours Brown or Black. Price 50 cents." He also announces receipt of another gross of "the genuine stamped Hall's Vegetable Sillian Hair Renewer," using which "your thin gray locks will thicken up and be restored to their youthful color and beauty."

Sixteen Miles Up

(New York Times) From Washington, DC, comes the news that Lieut. Col. Marion E. Carl of the Marine Corps has reached an altitude of 63,235 feet, almost 16 miles, thereby beating Bill Bridgeman's record of 79,494 feet, made in 1951. Lieutenant Colonel Carl went up largely for the purpose of testing a new Navy high-altitude suit. We wish we knew more about that suit. Assuming that it resembled the one that Bridgeman wore, it

Notes By The Ways

Men who think they are too good for hard labour sometimes wind up doing it anyway — in the penitentiary. —Hamilton Spectator.

A cheer for the Saskatchewan historians who would restore a good name to a lake. The Indians called it Old Wives Lake because a group of Cree squaws were killed there by the Blackfeet. Some drear white called the lake by its present name, Johnstone. —Ottawa Journal.

News that some Prince Edward Island fishermen gathered around \$300 worth of Irish moss within a few hours following the hurricane, points up the adage that it's an ill wind that doesn't blow somebody good. It's also a reminder that the same prices paid the Prince Edwardians, also can be had by Cape Bretoners who harvest the free offering of the sea, and for which there is an increasing demand in the growing number of processing uses to which the moss is put. —Sydney Post-Record.

Less than a century ago reading and writing were regarded as skills. Many a man was unable to read the simplest book; if he had to sign a paper, he drew a cross and some one else had to write the man's name at the side and witness that the cross was "his mark." All the accumulated knowledge gathered in books was denied the man who could not read; it was as though he had been born without one of his senses. Today, almost every one can read and it is no longer regarded as an accomplishment. But learning to read is almost a mechanical process which does not in itself assure knowledge, still less the fullness of pleasure that the world of books has to give. To obtain that requires good taste and discernment, both of which are extremely rare as natural gifts in a person.

Both although they cannot be taught, good taste and discernment may be acquired by those who will seek them diligently. If one remembers that every book is a reflection of the mind of the man who wrote it, the first lesson in discernment has been learned. —An editorial for young people, Hamilton Spectator.

There were, of course, more queens than one in London for the Coronation. There were, for example, The Cockney Pearly Queens. They looked pretty regal too, with their enormous plumes of ostrich feathers carried crest-like in their hats. And their coster kings looked pretty fine too in their sharp-cut suits covered with pearl buttons. If you were a visitor you may have picked up samples of cockney rhyming slang, some of which has gone around the world. In his own dialect of ancient derivation, Old Bill might ask you to join him in "Rosy Lea," which would mean a cup of tea. After which you might take a "Marlin-le-Grand" (hand) at "Wilkie Bards" (cards) with him. Whereupon he would clear the "Cain and Abel," or table, and light up his "Cherry-ripe," or pipe. Then you might be joined by his "Trouble and strife" (wife) who was waiting at the top of the "Apples and pears" (stairs). He might refer to her as his "Love and kisses" (mistress) or even his "Old china," which, through "China plate" of course means mate. — Montreal Current Events.

It is no trick to make ice-cold water boil without the application of heat. All that is necessary is a vacuum pump to reduce the atmospheric pressure. It was the pressure in his sealed cabin that saved Carl. If that was inadequate he had only to turn on oxygen under pressure into his suit. Oxygen was thus forced into his lungs, and the water in his tissues was prevented from expanding and tearing him apart. Thus, without harm to himself, he was in outer space for a moment or two, taking a careful step on an imaginary journey to the moon, followed by a quick withdrawal.

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The Passing Scene

By Observer MORE HEADLINES OF THE PAST (From a volume of magazines published 1858-60)

A leading article bemoans the "borrowing habit" of certain European nations. It seems that France, Russia, Austria, and Sardinia were looking for 150 million dollars to help in their rehabilitation following the Crimean War. The total amount is called "exorbitant and unreasonable next to pay it back?" asks the editor in indignation. It would be interesting to know if they ever did. Incidentally, the international banker at that time was England, not the United States.

A U.S. Government bulletin gives out some figures on the American Navy. All told there were 36 ships manned by 660 officers and 7000 men, the largest naval force in the country's history. "If this rate of expansion keeps up," wrote the editor, "the time is not far off when we shall catch up with John Bull." Well, at long last they have.

Louis Napoleon was in his republican hey-day. At a recent banquet in Paris he wore a sword that was covered with 80,000 worth of diamonds. "This at a time," the magazine points out, "when France is going in debt." Apparently, this debt business on the part of nations was not as respectable as it is today.

There was much concern in American Government circles over a treaty recently signed by Spain and Honduras. Under the terms Spain would have the right to chase coal and other supplies for her navy in that colony, an official note of protest was to be sent to both parties to the agreement. Alarm was also felt over the fact that all the French ships of war were soon to be armed with "the terrible rifled guns".

Indicative of the progress in military logistics is the following item: "Accompanying the French army in Italy are forming a part of its equipment was a cart, solidly built and drawn by four horses, containing a small hand press with an ample supply of paper and ink and everything else necessary for printing the orders of the day." An editorial note asks: "What next?"

In Hartford, Connecticut, a firm was busy in manufacturing a thousand revolving rifles for the British Government. This was taken to indicate "a growing amity between our two countries." At the same time a firm in New York had received an order for one million hoop skirts; the hoops to be made, if possible, of whalebone. A disconcerting note, however, was contained in a dispatch from Paris conveying the shocking information that the Empress Eugenie was seriously thinking of discarding her hoops. She was also reported to be partial to "tight sleeves".

The Chinese Colony in San Francisco had recently imported an idol for their temple at a cost of \$30,000. "Ordinarily," wrote the editor, "this action would be deplorable. However, since the idol is said to resemble our own George Washington, it can be overlooked." In Laraine, Wyoming, a company of soldiers were stationed on the road for the purpose of guarding citizens from hostile Indians.

In another part of the same State "friendly Indians from the marauding of lawless white men."

An Indian Rajah called Hunder-Sung-Sing had just married an English girl. The magazine deprecates the fact that the Rajah is a man but goes on to say that "some consolation for the young lady's family may be taken from the fact that he is very rich."

As always, there were fears of an economic depression. Some were even predicting a panic. (It seems that the end of the Crimean War had slowed business a bit.) A paper called "The New York Shipping List" does not share this gloomy view. In its opinion "the panic that was to overwhelm us this autumn (1859) will have to be postponed until a more convenient season. Times are much too prosperous for a panic to take place."

One indication that world economic conditions were good was seen in the fact that the British Government had collected this year in taxes no less than 400 million dollars. This sum is called "fantastic and almost unbelievable." As for national expenditures, the British were spending more than 100 millions for their Army and Navy, "to say nothing of their other public services."

In the 19th century version of the advice to Parents Department there is a letter from a worried mother who wants to know what can be done with her boy Tom "who has acquired an inveterate habit of lying." The advice is brief and to the point: "As soon as he is old enough get him into the diplomatic service and his fortune is made!"

A letter to the editor gives the valuable information that the bird which visited a certain orchard during the summer destroyed exactly 25, 450, 200, 001 caterpillars. The figure was arrived at by actual count, according to the correspondent.

A news-brightener from Louisville, Ky., reports that an up-and-coming physician in that city has "tangible proof" that by living on buttermilk a human being could easily prolong existence to a period of 200 years.

And tucked away in a corner is a pathetic little item which says that private letters from Turkey state that a lot of Bulgarian women have been carried off by the Turks. "This," commented the editor of the news department, "will doubtless cause grief to some Bulgarian men and much joy to others."

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