

THE GUARDIAN

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

CHARLOTTETOWN THURSDAY, AUG. 6, 1953

Twenty-Five Million Canadians

Allowing for a moderate decline from the present high birth rate and assuming the continuance of the present pattern of relatively high immigration and relatively low emigration, the Monthly Review of the Bank of Nova Scotia estimates that the population of this country will reach twenty-five million about 1980. At present rates it would be a few years earlier. A prolonged falling off in demand for our products or a serious depression might change the picture but "in view of the fiscal and monetary mechanisms that have been developed to combat depressions and the extent to which governments are committed to policies of full employment, a prolonged catastrophic slump does not seem likely."

At any rate, the article goes on to picture the results which will follow from that increase in population. National production can be expected to increase well over two-and-one-half times the present level to about \$65 billions and per capita production and standard of living to somewhat above that now prevailing in the United States.

Canadian farmers would be independent of export markets and would be called upon to produce substantially more of the "protective" foods—meats, dairy products, vegetables and fruits. The present rate of housing construction, some 85,000 units per year, would have to be stepped up to at least 90,000 even without allowing for houses that pass out of use. Suburbs are likely to continue to grow, requiring an extension of services of every kind and automobile production will have to be stepped up to put more than three times as many cars on the road as at present.

The article goes on in more detail, the tale that would gladden the heart of any booster. The most remarkable thing is that this is an age in which a bank does not hesitate to paint a rosy picture.

Utilizing Berlin Rubble

German ingenuity is shown once again in the news that rubble from the war-bombed areas of Berlin is successfully being utilized for reconstruction work in the city. Describing how this is being achieved Mr. John Crawley comments in London Calling that in the centre of Berlin there is a huge mill which grinds up rubble from the ruins and turns it into building material for new houses, factories, and roads. So great is the demand for this material that the mill has just been put on to three shifts a day for the first time.

Rubble from the ruins is brought in in lorries, tipped through an iron grating to ensure that nothing too big goes into the mill, and then the lumps of stone, brick, concrete, and plaster are carried up a conveyor-belt through a series of grinding operations. It comes out at the other end in various grades: some like dust or flour, some about the consistency of sand, and so on, up to something like fine gravel. At present there is no use for the finest grade, but all the rest is used in one way or another, either for making concrete on the spot or being sold to contractors who take it away for use in the rebuilding of Berlin.

The men on the job estimate that they will not run short of rubble for about seven more years.

The Man Who Didn't

"I didn't vote in the last election." We have all heard these words, and frequently, says the Montreal Gazette, and they have generally been spoken not in any apologetic way, as a humble admission of guilt or delinquency. On the contrary, they have been spoken loudly, almost with pride. This man says he didn't vote because he had no use for any of the parties. Or perhaps he didn't happen to like the candidates in his riding. Or the result of the election seemed a foregone conclusion. Or perhaps (so he says) it was because he thinks the whole business of elections is a farce. He reverences democracy in theory but despises it in practice. In any case, he exercised his democratic right not to vote. No politician was going to manipulate him.

There may, of course, have been other reasons that had some influence upon him. These, however, might not sound so well by way of explanation. He may have slept in that morning, and the few minutes needed to go to the polls might have seemed a

few minutes too much. Or on his way home he may have planned to go out and play golf or tennis. Or he may have been some distance out of town, or on his holidays. In any case, what difference would one vote make? And so the opportunity slipped by. The voting day came and went on the calendar and the voting hours came and went on the face of the clock.

But when this man faces his critics, he likes to say that he didn't vote almost on principle. He feels proud. He feels independent. He wasn't going to fall for the silly things being said by the candidates. He may even feel righteous. Politics are dirty business. His hand was not soiled by the ballot box. He minded his own business, and let the winds of politics blow as they might. "Vote as you wish, but don't ask me to vote," he says and goes his way.

"Look out for such a man," says the Gazette. "If he ever complains he should be told to keep his peace. If he doesn't vote on election day, then for the next four or five years he should go on minding his own business."

EDITORIAL NOTES

Transfiguration.

The housewife knew before the Bureau of Statistics that food prices are high but to the primary producer it probably comes as welcome news.

Of a total of 4,500 Netherland families coming to Canada since the war, classed as agricultural workers, about 1,500 had settled on farms of their own by the middle of last year. A large proportion of these were in Ontario.

The Finns have been accustomed to the sauna, a rugged variety of Turkish bath, from time immemorial. Now doctors are investigating the physiological effects of the institution. Popular belief holds that a disease is fatal if "neither tar nor sauna" offers a cure.

Bad weather is good weather to farmers desirous of meeting friends and neighbours and becoming acquainted with the work on the various demonstration stations. A farmer is apt to have a bad conscience about taking a day off while the sun shines.

The lobster season in area number 8 opens tomorrow but traps will be run at noon today. As the Northumberland Strait area is more sheltered than the North Shore fishermen should be able to take advantage of high prices without great danger of loss of gear which plagued their fellows in the spring season.

Not too much credence should be given the theory of the head of the World Meteorological Association that the weather is the cause of international difficulties. Weathermen hear vigorous complaints about the weather but they are more likely to be caused by errors of forecasting rather than the weather itself.

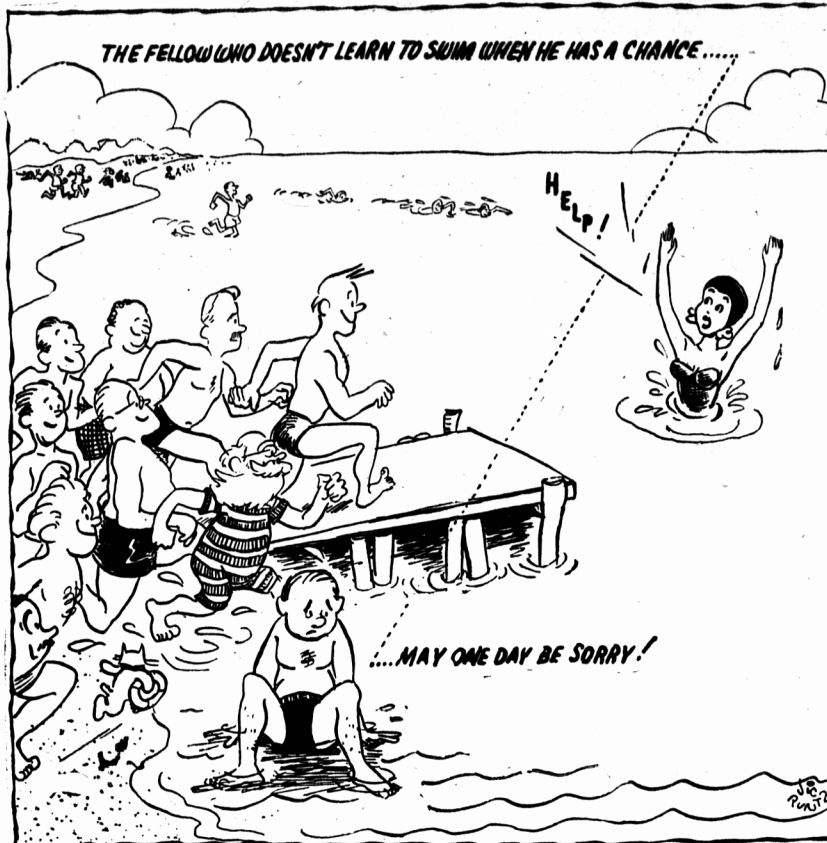
Thirty per cent more applications for admission to the three Canadian services college have been received this year than last, according to a report from Ottawa. Only 295 of the 1,206 applicants can be accepted for the courses which are comparable to ordinary university with the addition of a generous amount of training for a naval, army or air force commission.

Girolamo Fracastoro, Italian physician and poet, died this date 1553. He studied at Padua, becoming learned in medicine and belles-lettres. He became a professor of philosophy at Padua and later practiced as a physician at Verona. From his study there, he dominated European medical thought. He was also a noted mathematician, astronomer, botanist and philosopher.

Model aircraft flying is not as popular in this country as it might be but two Canadians, Ron Higgs and Norman McKay, both of Toronto, are included among entries from more than 20 countries who will compete in the 1953 World Model Airplane Flying Championship at Cranfield, Bedfordshire, August 1, 2, and 3. The championship is being staged by the United Kingdom's Society of Model Aeronautical Engineers.

The BBC is not always staid. A speaker tells that it takes a special kind of stamina to be a fiddler. The funny thing is, they don't seem to be able to play if they don't stamp their feet. There was one time the BBC were recording a Shetland dance band, and the recording engineers complained the drums were too near the microphone. So they took the drums further and further away, and eventually pitched the drummer out altogether. Still the same complaint. They couldn't record anything till they'd made everyone in the band take off his shoes and socks.

Possible Unforeseen Developments



Selkirk In P. E. Island

From the Diary of Lord Selkirk, 1803

Monday, 15th August:
Not being able to settle the situation of the Lots till the surveyor has made more progress, I resolved to return to Charlotte Town. Mr. Shaw remains at (Bel-fast) on account of some appearances of a contagious fever among the people; whatever may be Dr. McA's (McAulay's) medical acquirements he has not now leisure to attend to the patients.

Before setting out I agreed with the McMills and McFee to build a long house 25 x 16, roofed so as to stand this winter—for which they are to have £5 and promise to finish it in ten days. This is for a store house; the expense of these buildings depends in a great measure on the timber being near or far—the spruce logs at a distance and with much hauling by the oxen it would come to more. Here they are convenient.

I went up Orwell Bay in a boat to Vernon River and had a glance of the upper part of Lot 57 where three or four settlers have taken possession of the best spots. Went up to J. Laird's in Vernon River, a Loyalist settler from Carolina who lent me a horse and agreed to show me the way to Charlotte Town. Four fine Rosshire lads, MacRaes, landed me, hauling the boat through the mud in true clannish style. I had been talking my best Gaelic, and divided my dinner with them, which seemed to have won their hearts.

For their encouragement I explained to them part of what Laird told me of his situation. He began here quite bare eight years ago; has now 50 acres cleared, much upland hay, a good stock of cattle, and orchard, a comfortable house and plenty of everything. He values his improvements at £400. He has 200 acres assigned him as a Loyalist under a bargain which was made between the Government and the grantees of this Island, several of whom agreed to give up one-fourth of their lots to be divided among the Refugees, gratuitously. This they did with a view of peopling their neighborhood so as to improve the value of the rest of the lot.

Laird accompanied me on the road from his house to Cherry Valley, having lent me his horse, an excellent stout pony of the Canadian breed. We could not make out Charlotte Town, but about ten miles short of it turned off to Capt. Beers' at Cherry Valley, where I got quarters and set off very early, reaching Charlotte Town about breakfast time.

The road from Laird's is for some distance a mere track—passes behind some good settlements and considerable clearings. Along Vernon River are considerable number of Loyalist allotments and their clearings joining each other give some extent to the prospect; there is a continued track of clearing in this way to near the saw mill at the head of the tide-water. Laird reckons proprietors and 4 tenants on Lot 50; the proprietors are all on Loyalist allotments. These allotments have perhaps been more generally taken up here, on account of the navigable water. In other places as on Lots 57 and 58, being not so well situated they have not been settled on, and as they were granted on the condition of settling and building in one year they are thus forfeited.

The roads are very indifferent, mere bridle paths—nowhere the stumps rooted out. They might in some parts be passable for a sleigh in winter but scarcely anywhere for a cart in summer; full of deep wet places, and as they go on in direct lines marked out by the compass, it is a mere chance whether they go along swamp or dry land. When it chances to be dry it is tolerably good.

In the swamps they are mere sloughs, except where bridged—i.e. spruce logs are laid across ways to the road, close to each other so as to form a causeway for several years; but these when old, break and are dangerous. In some places, where pains have been taken, earth is taken out of little ditches on each side, and thrown on the causeway—if this is repeated Laird says it forms a dry ridge, and fixes before the logs rot. The bridges over brooks are

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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.

ELECTION CAMPAIGNING

Sir.—The Progressive Conservative candidates Messrs. McLure and MacLean are to be highly commended for their announcement that they will conduct the present political campaign in strict accordance with the rules of the Dominion Election Act. It is to be hoped that their opponents Messrs. Miller and Matheson will accept the challenge and make a similar declaration. Voters will have an opportunity on the 10th to show whether or not they are interested in curbing the scandalous practices prevailing at election time. I am, Sir, etc., W. J. SEAMAN. Springfield Lot 6.

similar, being just a causeway supported on three large logs laid across the opening.

The roads are almost entirely made by the statute labour and in the district of Cherry Valley in which are about 40 men subject to statute labour, the whole was employed on one causeway of about 250 yards long—and some additional labour paid from the general fund; thus a day's work was not 1 1/2 yards. This district includes all the settlements from the ferry over Hillsborough River to Vernon River.

This swamp might have been avoided by carrying the road about 1/2 mile to one side, but having been originally lined out by compass without previous examination and afterwards mended little by little the line was fixed down, too much being done to be sacrificed. What a loss that active woodsmen had not been sent to explore be-

Notes By The Way

London papers in a poll show overwhelming sentiment in favour of Princess Margaret marrying Peter Townsend. Now the next thing to find out, suggests the Detroit Free Press, is whether she wants him or not.—Hamilton Spectator.

The 1953 edition of the Rossport fish derby was the daddy of them all. More fishermen entered, more spectators watched than ever before. One look at the announcement that there were more than 2,500 motor cars parked at the small Lake Superior village on Sunday is sufficient to classify the derby as a "major event".—Fort William Times-Journal.

A study to find out what makes a worker good, bad or indifferent, was carried out recently by a research group in co-operation with one of the larger manufacturing

fore the surveyor was sent out with his instrument! Laird says that in three days he opened a mile of road, so that a sleigh might pass; but he is a particularly good axeman.

There is but one good carriage road in the Island, from Charlotte Town to St. Peters (and that along a navigable river). It was originally some by the military, and cleared of stumps from the first. I doubt if the Island will ever have good roads till they have funds sufficient to afford this to be done; their patch work will always be botched and the statute labour alone will never be able to make anything else. There is not at present sufficient liberality on the Island to provide funds adequate for good roads. The idea has been stated of Government making an allowance out of the Quid Rents, which may be practicable and will do great benefits to the Island.

August 15th: On the road from Vernon River, I passed a piece of land accidentally burnt a few months ago, in the spring or beginning of summer. This frequently happens at that time, from the spreading of the fires made by the settlers in clearing, or many other accidents. In autumn there is too much moisture and the fire will not spread; it runs along the ground and burns up the dead wood, leaves and bushes; the large trees are scorched, but retain their leaves, but next year get none and die. Laird said that in a year or two the raspberry bushes and other underwood begin to get up and grow so thick as to choke every other growth, and by degrees young wood gets very thick and renders

the woods useless as to pasture. Near Charlotte Town, and at many other places, I afterwards saw instances of old burnt woods grown up in this way into a thicker more impervious than the original woods and the dead stumps rising over. Laird thinks that if the ground immediately after the fire was sown with clover, the grass would keep down the brush wood and the cattle being attracted from all sides would bring it in, an excellent pasture, and keep it clear, and that in this way land might be cleared fully as well as by girdling.—there would, however, be the same inconvenience as in girdling land, that pasturing stock would be exposed to accidents from falling branches.

The Age Old Story

And the Lord said unto Moses, Wherefore criest thou unto me? speak unto the children of Israel, that they go forward; but lift thou up thy rod, and stretch out thine hand over the sea, and divide it; and the children of Israel shall go on dry ground through the midst of the sea.

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