

THE GUARDIAN

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

CHARLOTTETOWN WEDNESDAY, OCT. 7, 1953

Pegged Freight Rates Untouched

While freight rates in the western Provinces go down and those permitted in the central Provinces are raised under an equalization ruling of the Board of Transport Commissioners, tolls "within, into and out of" the Atlantic Provinces will remain unchanged in accordance with the Maritimes Freight Rates Act, 1927.

It is claimed on behalf of the railways that they will not be able to pick up in Ontario and Quebec the revenue which will be lost in the West, the reason being that it is seldom possible to charge the permitted rates in the central area because of competition from other forms of transport.

To the Maritimes the judgment is wholly satisfactory. Year by year rates have been raised since the early days of Confederation, Maritime rates to a far greater extent than those of the central Provinces in order to achieve "uniformity".

New Housing Policy

Prime Minister St. Laurent's announcement that the Government is considering a change in the Federal housing policy has had favorable reactions across Canada.

It is understood that the amendments to the National Housing Act will provide for establishment of residential mortgage insurance and enable the chartered banks, as well as other lending institutions, to lend on insured home mortgage.

The benefits of the lower down payments and cheaper, longer-term mortgages will be cancelled out to a considerable extent, warns an exchange, if the price of the new homes is inflated.

Maritime Progress

In their not infrequent complaints against unfair discrimination the Maritime Provinces have perhaps failed to lay sufficient stress on their noteworthy achievements despite many handicaps.

Home ownership in the Maritimes is greater than the Canadian average; Judged by the number of furnaces, homes are better heated than those in Quebec.

There are more telephones and better plumbing than on the Prairies, as many radios per family as in the rest of Canada; Passenger car ownership per family exceeds Quebec's although lower than the Ontario and western levels;

Population of Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick increased by 11 per cent between 1946 and 1953;

Mineral production doubled in value in that period and increased 26 per cent in volume. New Brunswick's gain was exceeded only by Quebec and Alberta;

Electrical energy production increased by 53 per cent and proportionately Prince Edward Island's advance was larger than for any other Province;

Manufacturing output increased by 92 per cent in value and 16 per cent in volume, a rate only slightly below that of Alberta;

There were six per cent more manufacturing establishments in 1953 than in 1946 and the number of employees was up 11 per cent;

Value of output per worker rose more than 73 per cent, exceeded only by Ontario and British Columbia;

Total personal income for 1952 was 41 per cent higher than for 1946 and even after allowing for the larger population was an advance of 33 per cent in personal income per capita.

This steady progress, Mr. MacPherson said, represented worthwhile forward strides and supported the belief that the Maritimes would continue to grow and prosper with the rest of Canada.

Knee-Deep in Bread

In the United States where, as in Canada, a huge surplus of wheat has piled up, consumers are being urged to eat more bread. In Europe, it is pointed out, the people eat several times as much bread as they do on this continent.

That is true, comments the Financial Post; but they also eat far less meat and eggs, and dairy products. And if they turn to bread in a big way they will have to cut down on the other items.

To produce one pound of meat, a hog or a steer must be fed from four to five pounds of grain and the same would be approximately true for eggs and dairy products.

"Few people in this modern age could stand knee-deep in bread and polish off 30 slices of it for their supper," says the Post. "But when they eat a fair sized steak they are getting rid of the equivalent in grain. Let the cows eat the grain. And we will eat the cows."

EDITORIAL NOTES

The cautions being given about shipping potatoes in bags that are dirty because used for picking should not result in an even worse practice. There would be a real danger involved in using second-hand bags in the field in order to preserve the new appearance of bags to be used for shipping.

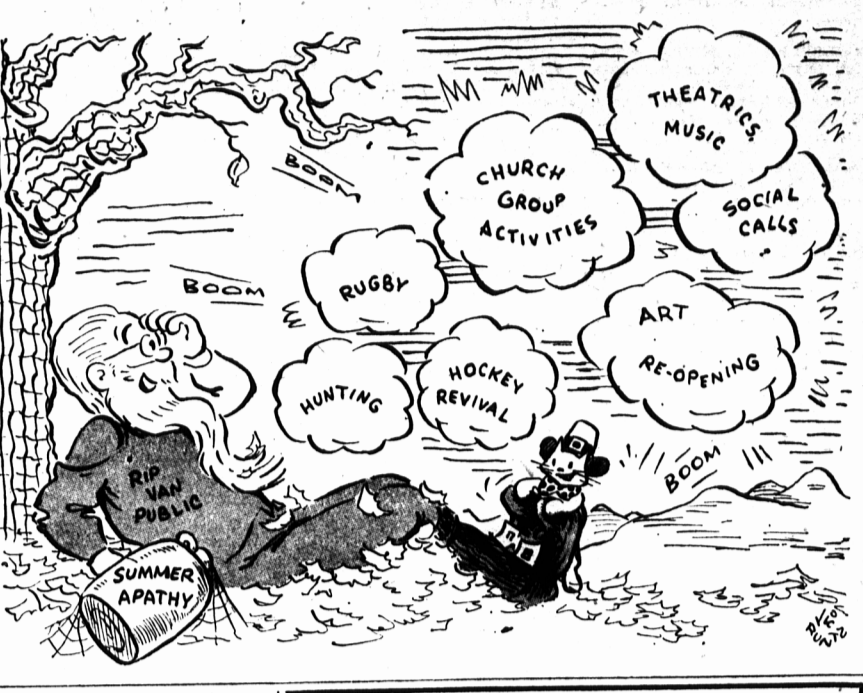
Spokesmen for the Potato Marketing Board are not making light of the difficulty of disposing of the Island product in the face of increased production throughout the Atlantic seaboard.

The sulphur deposits in the base metal discoveries in the Bathurst area of New Brunswick have a special significance for this Province. To New Brunswick they promise a chance to develop a chemical industry based on the manufacture of sulphuric acid.

It is reported that Canadian Peace Congress is proposing to make a canvass requesting persons interviewed to say whether they are in favor of a meeting of the leading powers with a view to settling by negotiation matters which threaten world peace.

General Christian Rudolph de Wet, Boer soldier and statesman, was born this date 1854. He fought in both the first war between the English and the Orange Free State and in the South African War. He was, perhaps, the most formidable of the Boer leaders in guerrilla fighting.

Re-Awakening



The Poet's Corner

SPECULA When He appoints to meet thee, go thou forth— It matters not If south or north, Bleak waste or sunny plot, Nor think, if haply He thou seek'st, He does thee wrong.

To stifle or gale Lean thou thy head, and long! It may be that to spy thee He is mounting Upon a tower, Or in thy counting Thou hast mista'en the hour. But if He comes not, neither do thou go Till vesper chime, Belike thou then shalt know He hath been with thee all the time. —T. E. Brown.

Old Charlottetown

(And, P. E. I.) THE FAIRY QUEEN Today, October 7th, marks the 100th anniversary of the most memorable tragedy in our Island transportation history.

He started on again, and hastened to make up the time he had lost by this strange occurrence. He had reached the corner of Pownall Street when he heard the bell again; no given number, but a continual dreary toll, as if it were some fog-bell on some rocky coast. The Captain now became deeply interested in his strange quest. Forgetting all about his horse, he retraced his steps up Kent Street. Drawing near Pownall Street, he heard the sound again, this time coming, as he thought, from the belfry of the Kirk. Knowing it was unusual for the bell to ring at that still early hour, he decided to investigate, the mystery.

He crossed the street to Miss MacDonald's corner (the site of the Charlottetown Hotel), walking up Pownall Street until he came to Fitzroy. Here he heard the St. James Church bell, no mistake, toll eight times; and lowering his eyes from the belfry to the entrance door, he there beheld on its threshold three women dressed in some white material, with uncovered heads and feet. The women seemed not to notice him as he now made his way toward them.

The Age Old Story

Jesus saith unto them, Believe ye that I am able to do this? They said unto him, Yea, Lord. Then touched he their eyes, saying, According to your faith be it unto you, and their eyes were opened; and Jesus straightly charged them, saying, See that no man know it. But they, when they were departed, spread abroad his fame in all that country....

ARMY COLLEGE NEW DELHI — (CP) — Eight officers from other countries are among the 102 officers who will attend the course at the Indian defence services staff college starting Oct. 5. Three are from the United Kingdom, two from Burma and one each from Canada, Australia and the United States.

The Phantom Bell Ringers

A LEGEND OF THE OLD KIRK AND THE 'FAIRY QUEEN' By J. Edward Rendle

It was one of those sober and rather melancholy days in the early part of the autumn, when the shadows of the morn and evening almost mingle together, that my friend Capt. Cross, who had risen with the sun that morning, could be seen making his way to town from his home, a little way out on the Brighton road; my friend was early astir, hastening to the stables of the "Royal Oak", to look after a valuable horse that a few days before had arrived in town from his father's estate in Devon.

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Descending to the porch below, where the Minister awaited them, seeking to find out the cause of the unseemly disturbance, the Captain narrated to Dr. Snodgrass his peculiar adventure of the morning. The Doctor admitted that the bell might have rung, though he thought it hardly possible; he ridiculed the idea of either the Captain or the sexton peering the women ascend the stairs, but the "power of the church" he stoutly maintained that he had seen the women, and their appearance had left a lasting impression on his mind.

The church being locked up again, the minister and sexton returned home, the Captain proceeded to attend to his horse, and the obscure events of the morning passed from their minds. Davy Nicholson, the Kirk sexton, turned the corner from the manse where he had been entering the cause of the bell-ringing at such an unseemly hour, and not receiving a satisfactory answer, decided to investigate for himself. They both tried the church doors and found them securely fastened. On looking through the small window at the side of the door, they saw the retreating form of a woman ascending the steps leading to the belfry. The sexton now made off to the manse for the key, leaving the gallant Captain on guard who, above the roar and whistle of the wind, which was now blowing a gale, could hear the sound of falls and voices in the tower above.

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The Passing Scene

By Observer FIRE

Fire Prevention Week provides a good opportunity for a few words about fire itself. No subject is more steeped in legend and myth. No human tribe has ever been discovered that was unable to produce fire in some way or other, although there have been evidences of tribes so crude and ignorant that they did not understand its proper use.

Because knowledge of fire goes back to the first records of man—and no doubt much farther—it is not surprising that primitive people have always thought of fire as one of the four "elements" of the universe, the other three being air, earth, and water.

The ancient Greeks who had a habit of clothing every mysterious and powerful thing in mythological dress had an explanation for the origin of fire that bore no resemblance whatever to the chemical composition which was revealed many centuries later. They said that originally it was in the custody of the gods and that Prometheus, the stormy petrel of the divine regions, stole it and gave it to man. Perhaps if he had been less reckless he wouldn't have done it, for fire has caused as much trouble and misery in human affairs as any other single thing.

I recall that a few years ago a man who must have had plenty of time on his hands for research and a genius for it made a rough estimate of the damage that fire has done to life and property in the last century or so. While I do not remember the exact figures I do know that they could be reckoned only in astronomical terms. And the sad thing is that a large percentage of the fires that take place year after year and day after day are totally preventable.

There are, of course, many fires of accidental origin and some that cannot be explained at all. Nevertheless, carelessness and negligence remain the two outstanding causes of destructive fires.

Somehow there are still a great number of people, otherwise intelligent, who appear to have no idea of the potential danger that lurks in a single match. Perhaps the invention of the modern match was a mistake. When fire could be kindled only by the laborious rubbing of sticks or striking flint with steel it is certain that people were more careful with it.

In the afternoon of the same day, Friday, Oct. 7, 1853, the said intelligence that the mail steamer "Fairy Queen" had been led in the Straits between Pictou Bay and Caribou, and seven lives lost—four ladies and three men—three of whom were members of St. James Church congregation—recalled to the minds of the parties interested in the strange events of the morning, the appearance of the women, and the ringing of the bell, which was thought by Capt. Cross to have sounded like a ship's bell.

To the above mystery I can offer no satisfactory solution. Life—for the present—we are about half alive—is full of the marvellous. That we may understand more of the marvellous capacities latent in ourselves, and of the phenomena which surround us, is the object for which this narrative has been written.

"There are more things in heaven and earth, Horatio, Than are dreamt of in our philosophy."

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