

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 FRIDAY, NOV. 20, 1953

Lovely Children's Books

One of the worthwhile contributions made to the encouragement of good reading habits by the Charlottetown Public Library is the emphasis placed on children's books. This feature of the library has been expanding continually, the children now have a section of their own where a fascinating collection of beautifully published books, ranging from new editions of oldtime classics to illustrated works on jet planes and atomic energy, are available daily.

Indeed, it is worth remembering that the principal aims of this special week are to interest adults in more and better books for children all through the year; to foster the accumulation of worthwhile children's books in school, home and library, and to give an incentive to making good books available to every child, not only for entertainment but as a foundation on which to build education and character.

Man's Best Friend

The dog's role of man's best friend is threatened by, of all things, the goose. Far from being a silly creature, the goose has intelligence enough to tend sheep, act as a watchdog and weed a garden, as well as incidentally providing eggs, roasts and feathers.

In more modern times they have been used to sound the alarm for British settlers in Kenya when awaiting attack by the Mau Mau. Far across the world in Malaya they protect villages threatened by Communist guerrilla raiders.

When not engaged in protecting life and property from human enemies, the geese put in time weeding crops of cotton, blueberries, strawberries and also tree nurseries. They conscientiously clean out crab grass, Bermuda grass, the saw-edged Johnson grass and many other weeds while leaving the crop untouched.

A Sub-Arctic Province?

Parliament is to consider a Government bill "to change the designation and orientation of the Department of Resources and Development" and define the responsibilities of the Government respecting Northwest Territories and Yukon affairs.

The idea of a sub-Arctic province may be dismissed, says the Toronto Telegram, unless the official attitude has undergone a sudden and drastic change. It recalls that when Commissioner Young opened the "little Parliament" of the North at Yellowknife last June he said the time had not been reached, nor was even approaching, when he would be justified in recommending that the proportion of elected representatives on the N. W. T. Council (three of nine) should be increased.

berta and Saskatchewan. Federal expenditure in the Territories far exceeds the revenue obtained; one estimate places the ratio at 10 to one. It is to be remembered, too, that the population was shown by the census to be about 16,000, and even with the Yukon only 25,000. Actually, prospects for growth are said to be much greater in the Yukon than the Mackenzie.

The Regency Act

The British Regency Act, under which the Duke of Edinburgh would act as Regent should the throne be vacated for any reason during the minority of Prince Charles, was approved by the Prime Ministers of all the Commonwealth nations which acknowledge loyalty to the Crown.

The act, notes an exchange, does not call for legislation in countries which have a Governor General. In Canada the Governor General is appointed by the Crown on the advice of the Canadian Government and when appointed he acts solely on the advice of his Canadian ministers.

There is a precedent in the act which designated Prince Albert as Regent in the event of Queen Victoria's death, but in this case the next in line for succession to the throne after the immediate heir was the King of Hanover. It is interesting to note that the Duke of Edinburgh, who is keenly interested in science, is following the footsteps of the Prince Consort, who made it his aim to promote application of science and art to the manufacturing industry.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Constitution Day, Jamaica, 1944

Today, the sixth wedding anniversary of the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh.

Maritime Air Command will be more directly than usual in the service of the Queen at the commencement of the Royal tour next week. They will provide an escort part of the way across the Atlantic and from Gander to Bermuda.

The immunity of legislators from arrest is in issue in Italy just now. The question is whether the Italian senate will waive traditional freedom from arrest in the case of a senator who ignored a sign to keep off the grass. Being a politician, he probably considered it a public duty to get at the grass roots.

A member for New Brunswick is trying to induce the Federal Government to give encouragement to the Passamaquoddy electric power project. Although a fisherman for some twenty years, Mr. A. Wesley Stuart sees clearly that industry is necessary to the prosperity of his Province and that power is essential to the development of industry.

It is now expected that there will be no difficulty about securing 100 electricity users in Tignish, the minimum number to make it practical to supply the village with power. The surprising thing is that the matter should ever have been in doubt.

Count Leo Nikolaevich Tolstoy, Russian novelist, poet and reformer, died this date 1910. He did not distinguish himself at college and led a life of pleasure until entering the army at the age of 23. He fought in the Crimean War and wrote a series of brilliant war sketches entitled "Tales from Sebastopol".

There has been a long-term decline in the relative importance of bank lending according to the monthly review of the Bank of Nova Scotia. In the first 20 years of the century loans amounted to about 30 per cent of the gross national product, a proportion that has declined to about 15 per cent. In the same period they declined from 60 per cent of the banks' total assets to 20 per cent in the war years and now about 35 per cent.

A Fine Tonic. Illustration of a man and a bottle of 'FAITH IN OURSELVES' tonic. Text: 'P.E.I. PRODUCE'.

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.

ARCHBISHOP SINNOTT'S VISIT

Sir.—On the occasion of my recent visit to the dear old home-land I had an experience quite unique in my life. For the first time I saw Government House in Charlottetown and let me say that it startled me beyond measure. The white facade of Government House is equal to the White House in Washington and the building itself, with its well-kept lawns, surpasses any Government House in any Province in Canada.

So much for the outside of Government House, but what of the inside? What a charming man is Lieutenant-Governor Prowse! I went an hour with him and I never met a more cultured and distinguished gentleman. His grasp of the affairs of the world shows that he is the right man in the right place.

Next, I had the honor of calling on one of the predecessors of Governor Prowse, the Hon. George D. Blois. Mr. Blois is of a noble family and the nobility shines forth in his conduct and character. Prince Edward Island surely has reason to be proud of its distinguished citizens.

My last visit gave me the pleasure which I missed a year ago, namely the pleasure of meeting my old Presbyterian schoolmates at St. Peter's Harbor more than 60 years ago. Harry Davison and Leigh Coffin came to see me and nothing could have pleased me quite as much. They were, as I was proud to note, immaculately dressed and very few men enjoy that distinction. Another schoolmate that I was delighted to meet was Florrie Davison (Mrs. Simpson) who was the most attractive young lady in our old school. Mrs. Lottie McEwen and Mrs. Harry Davison also did me the honor of calling on me. Very few may understand why these meetings give me so much pleasure. They must understand that, in my estimation, these individuals are the cream of the earth. My prayer for them is that God may bless them and that He may have them always in His holy keeping.

Very sincerely yours, ALFRED V. SINNOTT, Archbishop of Winnipeg, Camp Norton, Man.

THE GAMBLING MANIA

Sir.—There is something insane about the gambling habit. Over in England the people have gone crazy over gambling. Two lords were sitting at a table over a Scotch when two flies lit upon the table. One lord bet the other a shilling that the fly next to him would move first. He won the shilling. They bet on dogs, on horses and on men. I saw a race of black pigs once. I suppose they bet on those. Here in Canada the stage of Mania has not been reached but we are on the way to it.

Betting is a way of getting something for nothing. The thief is a man who tries to get something for nothing. The pickpocket is a gambler. He gambles on the chance of escaping jail. Suppose all honest people should quit work and turn to gambling for a living. It would have as the same effect on society as if every-

Farm Wife At \$69,000

Moose Jaw Times-Herald

An agricultural economic expert, who must have been a man, recently made a survey and put a price tag on a good farm wife of \$69,000. The peculiar thing about it is that the result of the survey was presented to the Women's Institute by a woman and, so far as the report of the affair in The Ottawa Journal indicates, the audience, made up mainly of farmer's wives, accepted this price-tagging of themselves without a murmur.

A value tag on a good farm wife of \$69,000 is ridiculous. It's more than that—it's downright insulting. A good farm wife is a pearl beyond price. She is a general utility on the farm, on duty 24 hours of the day. She is required to get up before the sun rises, light the kitchen fire and prepare a feast for the family that includes porridge, bacon and eggs, toast, or bread and butter, jam and marmalade and, as often as not, fried potatoes and gallons of coffee.

She is supposed to have the children attend school scrubbed and dressed, ready when her man pushes himself back from the table, or the school bus is sighted down the road. She has the morning to herself, washing the breakfast dishes and preparing the noon-day meal, which includes several kinds of fresh baked pies. Then, after polishing off the dishes, while the man she married smatches a wind or listens to the markets and the sport news on the radio, she is ready to go out and drive the tractor or do the barn chores for an hour or two. The evening meal is prepared while greeting the youngsters home from school and delegating them to collecting the eggs, chopping the wood or bringing in the coal.

For supper she seldom errs if she has two heaping plates of fresh bread, buns, and some cold roast meat, more fried potatoes and a three-layer cake, swathed in icing and still a little warm, a couple of big bowls of strawberries or raspberries, peaches or stewed apples. She gets glowing looks if she suggests that the family go easy on the butter as she has been too busy to churn this week.

The evening she has to herself again, helping the kids with their lessons, shooting them away from the radio and then off to bed.

body turned to thieving. I saw a woman put in jail for stealing a cocoon put worth about two cents. I fear that is drastic treatment for so small an offence. I was wrong. If the petty thief were let off then it would not be long until everything loose would be stolen. Gamblers are a blight in a community spending their time devising schemes to escape work and live off other people's means. Gambling is legally used to help church finances, but ministers find that this practice destroys the spirit of liberality. Church members say: "Why should we give off hard earned money that we so much need for ourselves if we can raise the money needed for our Church with a raffle or some gambling scheme? And besides, a money-making scheme gets us together and we have a lunch and a good evening. Straight giving is a dull way of raising money."

But the very heart of the religion of Jesus is the Spirit in liberality. Sacrificial giving is the foundation upon which is built the best work for the uplift of mankind. The individual or the Church devoid of this grace lacks the Spirit of Jesus. I am Sir, etc. W. J. GREEN, Stanley Bridge

Meantime she has sewed buttons on underwear and shirts, put a patch on here and there, darned socks and, just before banking the fire for the night, mixed up a batch of dough for buns and bread. And all this for a mere price tag of \$69,000, day in and day out for perhaps 50 years. But the women of the Eastern Ontario Women's Institute had an eye out for themselves, for they had resolutions asking the Government to exempt from gift tax one-half the value of any gift from husband to wife, property or otherwise; that one-half be considered for tax purposes as earned by his widow, when it passed to her upon his death; also that, instead of exempting estates up to \$50,000, this amount be made a "true exemption" deductible from the value of the estate before calculating the taxes. They want to be recognized as a partner, not as a dependent of their husbands. However, a price tag of \$69,000 may be useful to the pink-checked and robust young ladies who, when courted, can demurely say "Yes", conditional upon a settlement of that amount free and unencumbered. For that they may be willing to take a change of getting gifts and outliving a husband and coming into half his estate, of which \$50,000 will be an exemption deductible before taxes.

But \$69,000 is a preposterous figure. Who can put a value on a good farm wife.

The Age Old Story

Rejoice in the Lord, O ye righteous: for praise is comely for the upright.

Notes By The Way. Ottawa reports average wages in Canada are up 15 cents compared to 1952. What does the farmer, who is getting less for his produce think of that? -St. Thomas Times-Journal. In order to maintain a well-balanced perspective, the person who has a dog to worship him should also have a cat to ignore him. -Peterborough Examiner. Added to the teacher's troubles is deciphering the scribble from an angry parent demanding to know why his child isn't being taught how to write properly. -Hamilton Spectator. To be different for the sake of being different has little value. But to be different because that is the only way by which some urgently needed service can be rendered a worthy cause is to be great. -Owen Sound Sun-Times. It's hard to keep a good coin down. The English half-penny, though now almost valueless in Britain, is greatly prized in Denmark where it can be used to extract 60 cents worth of cigarettes from vending machines. -Edmonton Journal. We have read a homily on parents being more kind to little children whose little legs are tired on hurried walks down the streets. We want to write another homily on creaky adults being forced to keep up with tiny, twinkling, never-tired legs for all the long day. -Ottawa Journal. Many people who have thought economics as a vague and terrifying subject are now seeing basic economics at work. What we are seeing is the prediction of common sense people come true. That rising costs of living and wage hikes are one and the same thing. There were futile voices raised many years ago that tying wages to cost of living was bound to make cost of living go up, and then wages go up and so on. We are still in that mad process, although the cost of living theme has somewhat given way to one called "standard of living." -Vancouver News Herald. The fatal mistress of the young, the lazy, the coward, and the fool, condemned to lose A useless life in waiting for tomorrow— To gaze with longing eyes upon tomorrow, Till interposing death destroys the prospect. Stranger! that this general fraud should fill the world with wretches undetected. The soldier, labouring through a winter's march, Still sees tomorrow dressed in robes of triumph; Still to the lover's long-expecting arm Tomorrow brings the visionary bride. But thou, too old to bear another cheat, Learn that the present hour alone is man's. -Samuel Johnson.

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