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Report On Housing

The ups and downs of housing construction and costs, family formation and birth of second children are discussed in the monthly review of the Bank of Nova Scotia.

Legislation has provided for a new source of mortgage funds, the chartered banks, and enabled home builders to proceed with a relatively smaller down payment.

Seven years ago a shortage was at its most acute stage. Now, with some 600,000 more houses available, the shortage is still severe in many metropolitan areas.

Family formation has been at a high rate and, equally important from a housing point of view, a second child has been born relatively quickly to many parents.

Secrecy In Atomic Matters

There has been a widespread belief in Western countries that Russian espionage in the United States had much to do with the rapidity with which Soviet scientists were able to produce nuclear weapons.

Dr. Beckerly did not suggest that secrecy in atomic energy matters is of no value in Western efforts to keep ahead in that field. It still is possible that the West has some advanced techniques which the Russians lack.

Printing Anniversaries

Science is putting words and pictures on paper in new ways, thereby writing the future of the ancient art of printing. Electronic and photographic typesetting machines spin out printed matter at fantastic speeds.

Dr. Vannevar Bush, president of the Carnegie Institution of Washington, has said he believes that movable metal type will be supplanted by new and faster printing methods.

genius named Pi Sheng conceived movable type made of fire-hardened clay. Movable metal type came later. Koreans were making it perhaps as early as 1232.

The first printed book still in existence, the British Museum's "The Diamond Sutra", was produced by the Chinese Wang Chieh in A.D. 868. Similar wood block printing existed at least a century earlier.

Playing cards, religious pictures, and paper money brought printing to Europe from China. The movement from Asia to Europe was slowed because of the early Islamic belief that printing was evil.

The first printing press in the Western Hemisphere worked in Mexico City in 1539.

EDITORIAL NOTES

The operation of an extra ferry by the C.N.R. at this time both reflects the high rate of freight shipments and also serves to further stimulate the Island economy by speeding up the service.

The bequest of the widow of Dr. S. N. Robertson for two scholarships at Prince of Wales College where her husband was so long principal is itself a fine memorial to that teacher.

An exhibition of 85 British books chosen for the National Book League as the finest design and production published during 1953, is now on tour of 16 Ontario towns and cities.

The housing problem for some Canadian students in Scotland may be solved by living in a castle. The 16th Earl of Dalhousie, at any rate, told the Canadian graduates that he is thinking of letting rooms in his castle near Edinburgh.

Aircraft from Summerside and Greenwood are carrying out anti-submarine exercises with the first Canadian-manned submarine and a U. S. submarine off Bermuda.

In accordance with the Queen's wish, Canadian insignia will in future bear the representation of St. Edward's crown rather than the Tudor crown the use of which was introduced by King Edward VII.

English surveyors Charles Mason and Jeremiah Dixon commenced this date 1763 to survey the boundary between Maryland and Pennsylvania, finally putting an end to the disputes between the Baltimores and Penns who owned them respectively.

A farm survey in Newfoundland covering 247 farms in 12 areas found that cash farm receipts for 1953 averaged \$3,660. Receipts ranged from \$594 for the smallest farms to \$7,730 for the largest.

Canadian cattle numbers on December 1, 1953, had reached 9,371,000 which compared with 8,906,300 the year before. The eastern provinces had 5,376,000 and the western provinces 3,995,000.



Asking For It

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.

"PROGRESSIVE EDUCATION"

Sir.—The next group to make the school its operational base will in all likelihood be the tonorial fraternity. It would not be such a far cry from pupils taking time out for cod liver oil capsules or a dental checkup, to getting a haircut during school hours.

Instead of urging teachers to do better in developing ability to think and create through specific academic disciplines, the pontiff of "Progressive Education" advocates their combining the older functions of the school with the educative duties of the home, the church, the family doctor, and unmet social agencies.

By the time teachers get through with the educational side-shows thrust on them by professional theorists, their stamina is worn high spent, and the Three R's remain a sadly overlooked trio.

Is it any wonder then that an American high school teacher wrote to Cannon Bernard Iddings Bell: "What do we teach? Smatterings of almost all things, academic and otherwise. These we try to integrate around vital central interests" such as how to date, how to reform the City Hall, and run the United Nations.

Some will argue that our Island schools are not tainted with "progressivism." Collier's writer—Howard Whitman—says: "Very few schools have taken on Progressive Education whole hog. But almost none has escaped its influence." One of the tenets of the new system is the elimination of competition.

ROCKY POINT FERRY SERVICE

Sir.—A West River writer, who doesn't like political promises, suggests in a recent letter to The Guardian, an alternative to the proposed West River bridge—namely a powerful ice-resisting ferry-boat at Rocky Point, designed for all sorts of heavy traffic, and practically all-year-round service.

The Age Old Story

Thou art near, O Lord; and all thy commandments are truth . . . Thy word is true from the beginning; and every one of thy righteous judgments endureth for ever.

By this time, Rocky Point residents have had their fill of ice-breaking, ice-breakable, off again, on again ferries. To try one more, would surely be a remarkable example of the triumph of hope over experience.

Of course, however, I quite agree with those who claim that Rocky Point should have some kind of ferry service—but only for the summer season. I quite agree, too, with those who claim that Rocky Point should continue to be as it has been for several generations, a pleasant summer resort for Charlottetown people; but surely in this respect Charlottetown people—men, women, and children—would be more interested in a pleasantly-designed passenger boat, rather than a costly ice-breaking ferry-boat destined for all sorts of heavy traffic and all-year-round service.

Let Rocky Point people, for the time being, cease speculating on any kind of ferry-service, now that they are assured of a safe and easy, all-year-round passage by a bridge across West River, to be located at a point that will leave them situated, not far from it as scores of their fellow citizens will be, who live from 3 to 6 and even 10 miles west of the bridge, and who now rejoice in the prospect of it. After they have secured this just and equal right, let them then seek, at their leisure, for ferry boats, and summer resorts for Charlottetown people, and in fact any other luxury that they and their fellow citizens of Charlottetown and elsewhere may feel disposed to pay for. In the meantime, the best of luck to old Rocky Point, and, on with the bridge for West River!

I am, Sir, etc. M. McK. Argyle Shore, Nov. 13th.

MR. PRATT AND THE WEST

Sir.—I have read with much interest in The Guardian of a visit to Regina by Mr. C. Pratt, of St. Peter's. On the basis of a magazine article, Mr. Pratt attempts to outline conditions in the wheat growing section of Western Canada. He mentions his trip to the West in 1912, and his working as straw boss on an outfit threshing and hauling a fifty bushel crop, when wheat dealers and speculators had a free hand to transact business and prosperity existed on every hand in the Canadian West.

Today, he says, "The West is in a complete state of destruction, with three years wheat on the farm, and elevators bulging their sides, granaries filled to the roofs"; they are in such a mess he says that the farmer is in despair, his nest egg in the bank is used up if he had any, his credit at the stores and banks exhausted, and he is smothered with his own wheat in a world that is starving, due to the conditions existing under the management of the Western Wheat Board which are definitely and demonstratively the worst one could conjure in his wildest fantasy.

Now I farmed in those years Mr. Pratt speaks about,—those years of wheat dealers and speculators, when the farmer who was well established with his own machinery, threshing outfit and all necessary equipment was able to have his crop seeded in the early spring, get away to an early start at threshing time, place his wheat on the early market and receive from \$1.25 to \$1.80 per bushel. The homesteader, as I was, would have to leave his wheat in stock for weeks at a time, until the threshing outfit with Mr. Pratt as straw boss would eventually make its way to our farm about November 1st, and after brushing the snow off the stocks we would finally complete our season's threshing. By the time we would get our wheat to the elevator, the price had advanced and all that was left of \$1.80 was 80 cts. The grain dealers got the \$1.00 and the farmer got the balance.

Old Charlottetown

and P. E. I.

From The Examiner, Dec. 3, 1882: Mr. Justice Peters gave judgment today on the question raised by certain shareholders of the Bank of Prince Edward Island, who objected to being placed upon the list of contributors for a greater sum than \$64.44 per share. He decided that a call of \$80 per share be made upon the directors of the Bank, and reserved further judgment as to the liability of the shareholders.

Mr. McKinlay, well known street preacher, met with a serious accident this morning. While at the dry goods store of Mr. A. B. McKenzie he became engaged in argument. On scoring a point he as usual turned upon his heel, but this time slipped, and fell and broke his ankle. He was given in charge of Dr. McKay, who set the limb immediately. Mr. McKinlay is doing as well as can be expected under the circumstances.

Then this modern Gestapo ordered electric lights and running water to be installed in the old home; ordered it to be redecorated and converted to standards which they considered essential for modern living. All at Miss Emma's expense. When she returns from the hospital, she will be startled to find that "conveniences" which she disdained have been thrust upon her, and that the "inconveniences" and

price early or late and the young farmer or homesteader has an equal chance with his more mature neighbour. Yes, the elevators in the West are crammed, granaries are piled high; vacant schools, skating rinks, anything that has a roof over it and can be rented is plugged to capacity. Bumper crops this last year, with modern high powered machinery, more land under cultivation, with more attention paid to seed and methods of cultivation. Western Canada is producing wheat as it never produced before. The farmers of Western Canada never lived in a more prosperous era than at the present time. Come what may they have next year's crop all harvested and ready to place on the market; the stores, wholesalers, hardware firms, banks and all business establishments never knew of such business and prosperity; towns are springing up over night, cities growing faster than they can lay the streets.

Take Regina for example in 1912, when Mr. Pratt paid us a visit; Regina was just a few houses on the banks of the Wascana; today it is fast growing to be one of the most beautiful cities of Canada; its Parliament Buildings, with the exception of Ottawa the most beautiful in Canada, with their lawns and parks covering twenty-five acres; Victoria Avenue with its beautiful shade trees lining both sides of the streets, two rows of Manitoba Maples up the centre, with a beautiful driveway on each side; homes of the very best, flanked by beautiful Victoria Park on the one side, and the C.P.R. hotel, the "Saskatchewan" which is fifteen stories high, on the other; the Exhibition grounds covering ninety acres with Mr. Auld (a boy from Covehead, P.E.I.) as Superintendent; with its two hospitals, the General and the Grey Nuns, as modern as any in Canada; new and commodious schools, Churches of the best, a credit to their parishioners; a city that is clean and up-to-date in every respect and of which every citizen is justly proud. All this was accomplished by the prosperity of the wheat grower of the Western Plains.

Now I have never grown potatoes, glad of the fact that I never have) and therefore am not in a position to argue pro or con on the subject of a Potato Marketing Board. But I do know that they require one thing, and that is adult education; it is necessary anywhere it is in potato areas, as a glance at the reports of the farmers' meetings held for the express purpose of studying the marketing situation plainly indicates. In conclusion I would invite Mr. Pratt to visit Regina, tell us through this paper when he leaves St. Peter's and I will meet him at Union Station in Regina. He will be assured of a good time, and perhaps before his return his attitude will have changed and he will be able to speak a better word for the Canadian West. I am, Sir, etc. A RETIRED FARMER Regina, Sask.

OTTAWA REPORT Gadgets Ordered By Law

By Patrick Nicholson

Ottawa: Emma Mathias has learned the hard way that in these days "they" are able to compel everyone to conform to the humdrum uniformity of our human production line. They may prevent any person from living placidly in a manner of his own choosing, minding his own business, and bothering nobody.

By "they" of course, I mean the officials elected by us, or selected on our behalf, and paid by us, to manage our community, province or nation. Today all these, from senior executive to junior township clerk, have ceased to end their official letters with the ancient phrase: "I am, dear Sir (or Madam), your humble and obedient servant." Perhaps they hope that, without this reminder, John Q. Public will forget who is boss.

Little old Miss Emma Mathias was fortunate to afford to live in her family's spacious old house on a mature old avenue. The home which had been good enough for her grandparents and parents, and in which she had been brought up, seemed adequate and certainly happy for Emma and her sister Mollie in their last 21 years. Some of the rooms were no longer used and remained undusted; some old mahogany chairs had been encased in protective wrappings; bicycles and other childhood souvenirs were stored safely away. Remembering disastrous bank failures, and perhaps re-seeing banks closing their doors, Miss Emma preferred to cache spending money in her home, rather than entrust it to some professional guardian.

At last this inoffensive partnership for living was broken up by Mollie's death. A little later, poor Miss Emma fell and broke her leg. Living alone with no relatives caring for her, she had to go to hospital.

Immediately a niece appeared on the scene, not to care lovingly for her aunt, but to file an affidavit alleging that Miss Emma was incompetent to look after herself. A judge ordered investigators to examine Miss Emma's home—in her absence and without her permission. Their study, it was said, revealed "a picture of mid-Victorian living in a modern era." Apparently the adjective Victorian no longer implies a peaceful, prosperous and developing existence, prizing virtues of greater worth than that of being able to buy a bigger television aerial than the Joneses. The investigators went through the home with x-ray thoroughness, stripping the wrappings off furniture, ripping tires off the bicycles, tearing open mattresses, probing into every drawer and closet, searching among bedding and clothing, and even cutting into upholstery. They discovered Miss Emma's hiding places for her money and boasted "There is not even a penny that we have not found."

Then this modern Gestapo ordered electric lights and running water to be installed in the old home; ordered it to be redecorated and converted to standards which they considered essential for modern living. All at Miss Emma's expense. When she returns from the hospital, she will be startled to find that "conveniences" which she disdained have been thrust upon her, and that the "inconveniences" and

untidiness" to which, she was accustomed have been altered. Her cash has been deposited in a bank. Note that there is no suggestion that her home was insanitary or unfit for habitation; nor that she is mentally deranged. She was merely offending the robot outlook of officials by living today in the mid-Victorian style in which she had been brought up.

All this happened, by judge's order, in a nearby country which boasts that its way of life is based upon "the self-evident truth" that all men are endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable rights, among which are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. . . . these rights being secured by a government which derives its just powers from the consent of the governed."

The Poet's Corner

NIGHT PIECE FROM ATLANTIS

Before me the great Dogstar dims, a hush Bears on the supine blue: tensely I wait; The evening's cleft by a small classic thrust, Her love notes never early, never late. Now as I yearn an old faith tunes my ear, She sings, white-robed in a white colonnade, Exquisite sum of all I've longed to hear, Fulfillment of poor gestures I have made. Time was nor is, but sweetness flicks my lips, There's fire a wanderer may call his own, My prow but one among the colored ships Summoned to moor at quays of shining stone. Then full to her bright head the loud waves rise, The Dogstar blazes back into my eyes.

—John Ackerson in the New York Times

CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING

KINGSTON (CP) — The 10th meeting of the Canadian Council of Churches will be held at St. George's cathedral here Nov. 22-26. Hitherto the council has met annually. This will be its first biennial meeting. An announcement Saturday from its general secretary, Rev. W. J. Gallagher of Toronto, said the council's purpose is "to give expression to the fundamental unity of the Christian community and to provide a common agency for projects of an inter-church nature."

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Table with 3 columns: CASH YOU RECEIVE, MONTHLY PAYMENTS, NUMBER OF MONTHS. Values: \$105.75, \$10.00, 12; \$208.38, \$24.00, 15; \$310.68, \$27.00, 24; \$756.36, \$40.00, 24.

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