

THE GUARDIAN

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President and Associate Editor, Ian A. Burnett, Associate Editor, Frank Walker.

"The Strongest Memory is Weaker Than the Weakest Ink".

CHARLOTTETOWN, THURSDAY, DEC. 20, 1951

"Lessons From Europe"

Today's installment brings to a close Mr. Leo McIsaac's series of articles, "Lessons from Europe in Community Progress", which have been running daily in The Guardian since September 24, and which have created a great deal of interest in this Province and throughout the Maritimes.

Already, his articles have been discussed from both a critical and a commendatory standpoint. This is to be expected, and even welcomed, in view of the controversial nature of the subject matter.

As the author emphasizes, his report is not presented as a final blueprint but "as a basis for discussion, and as a means of provoking some new and deeper thinking on some of the problems facing us."

Seven-Cent Newspapers

In Victoria the two newspapers have gone to seven cents daily, (says The Vancouver News-Herald). This is the first breach in the five-cent ceiling in Canada.

At their recent meeting in San Francisco, Associated Press editors declared the seven-cent price for daily newspapers is only transitional.

The 15 cent Sunday newspaper, they said, was now uneconomic and it was heading for 25 cents.

Daily newspapers have been five cents or less for so long that it had come to be thought there could be no higher price.

In terms of depreciated dollar values, a 10-cent newspaper price today would be the equivalent of less than the five-cent price pre-war.

For A Safer Christmas

It is one of life's ironies that the Christmas tree, symbolic of Yuletide happiness, can when placed in a warm room soon become a highly inflammable element through the evaporation of its natural juices.

Wiring the tree safely for illumination, notes an exchange, is also important. The lighting set should be carefully examined for any weaknesses or chafing in its insulation.

After decorative lamps are screwed into their sockets it is well to make sure that no live metal of either sockets or lamps is left exposed, as such parts might contact tinsel and cause short-circuits.

If a householder is making use of an extension cord to carry electrical current to the tree, he will feel more assured by employing only a cord that bears the marker of a recognized testing laboratory. "Snow"

on trees should always be non-combustible. Cotton should never be used. Candles are dangerous.

By keeping the floor near trees free of tissue and paper containers, by never leaving the tree lighted when members of the household are absent from the room, by imposing a no-smoking rule within the area where the tree is placed, a comforting degree of safety can be attained and traditional joy prevail.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Eggs and Wiltshires are to be stabilized by the Government, but not "the little man in business" by the manufacturers.

Maritimers can still spare some pity for the unfortunate Philipinos struck by typhoons. A North American winter is far from the worst that nature can do.

The new Chief of Naval Staff, Vice-Admiral E. R. Mainguy, is getting off on the right foot with the press. "My policy", he declared, "is to give you the news as soon as it's available—sooner if possible."

Russian Foreign Minister Vishinsky has turned down western peace proposals as "wishy-washy" and meaningless. Presumably he would like to see peace proposals that would make the blood run cold.

Stage plays were suppressed under the Commonwealth this date 1649. Ten days later Charles I was executed although he had given away to almost all the demands of Parliament even before the outbreak of civil war.

It is curious that notwithstanding differences of individual opinion among themselves, all parties except the Progressive Conservatives are in favor of the Government's bill to abolish floor prices in manufactured goods.

Hon. Mr. Howe tells us that labour for factories had increased from 21 to 26 per cent since 1921; while on farms it declined, from 37 to 20 per cent. That is the misfortune of Canada, so many people rushing to the central provinces for short hours and big pay, leaving the farmers to produce the all-needful food stuffs with the minimum employees and the maximum of hours.

A Frenchman speaking in English in Parliament is at a distinct disadvantage. Mr. John Sinnott (L—Springfield) emphatically said Canada was doing everything possible to "prevent peace".

At their annual festival dinner recently the City of London branch of the Royal Society of St. George were treated to a 105-pound "baron of beef" (two sirloins left uncut at the backbone)—gift of a New Brunswick branch of the society.

According to an Ottawa correspondent of the Gazette, Liberal circles report that Postmaster General Rinfret has been assured of an appointment to the judiciary as soon as political conditions make such a move possible.

In the interests of rising hopes, members of Parliament whose homes are far from Ottawa should be provided with Trans-Canada Air Lines passes to better keep in touch with their constituencies.

Now the Philistines fought against Israel; and the men of Israel fled before the Philistines, and fell down in the house of Gilboa. And the battle went sore against Saul, and the archers hit him, and he was wounded of the archers. So Saul died for his transgression which he had committed against the Lord, even against the word of the Lord, which he kept not, and also for asking counsel of one that had a familiar spirit, to enquire of it.

Seasonal Complaint



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.

FLUORIDE FOR TEETH

Sir,—I beg your indulgence in allowing me space in your excellent paper to comment on your editorial of the 18th. December, "For Better Dental Health."

The statements reported to have been made by the Dean of the School of Dentistry of McGill University on the beneficial results to be obtained by adding fluoride to the domestic water supply, appear to be unduly optimistic.

The statement that, if the City of Montreal carries out the procedure, in 50 years time dentures will not be necessary to the ordinary individual, is optimistic in the extreme.

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However, so long as these limitations are realized, water fluoridation is certainly a procedure seriously to be considered. Although none of the experiments are yet completed, preliminary results indicate that a significant reduction in dental caries is being achieved, at least in the child populations.

In Canada a more conservative view has been taken. The Research Committee of the Canadian Dental Association has only given a qualified approval to it because no experimental studies have been completed and additional facts might emerge which would modify present concepts.

The Age-Old Story

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Old Charlottetown

(And P. E. L.) MORMON MISSIONARY

"It will be in the recollection of many of our readers that about six years ago a person calling himself "Elder Dixon" and professing the Mormon faith, came to Charlottetown, and succeeded in making a number of converts to his doctrine; the consequence of which was, that several persons, including some of the members of the family of the late Mr. Poole, who was for many years miller to the late Hon. George Wright, left the island to follow the fortunes of the Mormon people in the United States, and have subsequently proceeded to California."

the evidence now available if it is on an experimental basis.

Both Charlottetown, and Summerside are ideally suited for this because all school children here have had detailed dental examinations and the findings have been recorded. It is hoped that they will continue to have these examinations each year.

Fluoridation would, of course, be a municipal undertaking. The cost has been estimated to be between 10 and 15 cents per capita, per year. For this expenditure a considerable reduction in tooth decay can be anticipated without any conscious individual effort.

Sir,—I read with intense absorption and keen interest the intellectual dissertation courageously, but in my opinion signed "Old Timer." Many people would connect this gentleman with a product of the Gay Nineties, considering the cognomen alone; but upon due reflection of his "advanced" theories, they are forced to uproot him from that limited society and transplant him in an environment which would more directly promote his progressive ideas.

LIVING IN THE PAST

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At the end of the trail is the old mill. In other days it milled grain of all kinds but today it turns out only lumber.

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The Poet's Corner

A stranger here, as all my fathers were That went before, I wander to and fro; From earth to heaven is my pilgrimage, A tedious way for flesh and blood to go. O Thou, that art the way, pity the blind, And teach me how I may Thy dwelling find.

the stones that once ground grain that fed a whole hungry community.

Of those splendid men of a by-gone age it may be said in the words of Thomas Gray: "Oft did the harvest to their sickle yield, Their furrow oft the stubborn glebe has broke; How jocund did they drive their team afield! How bowed the wood beneath their sturdy stroke."

I am, Sir, etc. W. I. GREEN Stanley Bridge.

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Lessons From Europe In Community Progress

By Leo P. McIsaac Part Three (concluded) (All Rights Reserved)

KEY TO ADMINISTRATION CHART

(The following notes refer to the chart published in yesterday's Guardian.)

- Maritime Level (25) Labor Organizations—provincial or Maritime trade union organizations which would have facts available to show costs of production in each trade, and would develop and maintain a general understanding of problems of other groups. (26) Farm Organizations—Provincial Federations of Agriculture in four eastern Provinces. (27) Maritime Cooperative Services—based on consumer cooperatives in each of four Provinces; could be central marketing agency for livestock and perhaps eggs. Would also foster Maritime Cooperative Insurance Company for the present. (28) Cooperative Service Associations—Provincial or Maritime service organizations such as cooperative housing associations, cooperative machinery groups, community centers associations, etc. (29) Separate Maritime Marketing Boards—for fish, dairy products, small fruits, eggs and poultry, and livestock would be set up after at least three-quarters of the producers concerned requested such a board by secret ballot. In addition to producers there would be representatives from the consumer, a representative from Maritime labor and a representative from Maritime Governments—preferably an economist on each marketing board. Complete control of and responsibility for the marketing and distribution of each of those food commodities would rest with the respective boards. (30) Maritime Power and Hydro Commission—a Crown corporation operated for and by the three Maritime Governments to develop new sources of power and extend electric lines all over the three Provinces. (31) Hospitalization—health services, on which board there would be official representation from the various sectors of the population including farm and agriculture. (32) Maritime Research Council—a Government supervisory board or council established jointly by the four Governments as a special arrangement for keeping a check on activities and trends of marketing boards and cooperatives. It could be an official of this council which would represent Governments on those Maritime marketing boards and this council would be the Government agency to which all cooperatives and marketing boards in the four provinces would have to report regularly. (33) Maritime Cooperative Union—a Maritime union of Cooperative and Service federations including provincial farm and labor organizations, consumers' cooperative wholesale, hospitalization, power and hydro, etc. This same board of directors would be responsible for publishing a Maritime weekly newspaper, in both English and French which would be the official organ of each and all of the affiliated organizations—labor, agriculture, fishermen, and cooperatives in the Maritimes. A technical cooperative journal for officials and staff of the cooperative and marketing organizations is necessary and could also be published by the same press. With college extension departments, this M.C.U. would be responsible for coordinating the adult education work among the members, and for some general research work. National Level (34) Canadian Chamber of Commerce—representing private business in the fields of finance, distribution and merchandising. (35) Canadian Congress of Labor—representing all labor organizations in Canada, could have a youth section. (36) Canadian Federation of Agriculture—representing all provincial farm organizations across Canada; could have a youth organization. (37) Cooperative Union of Canada—representing all branches and phases of the cooperative movement in the country. (38) Federated Women's Institutes—the national federation of rural and urban Women's Institutes across Canada. They would represent the voice of the women and housewife consumers on the national level. (39) A National Federation of Primary Producers Marketing Boards—representing all agricultural, fishing, mining, and forestry marketing boards, in the country. (40) Canadian Manufacturers' Association—representing private and corporate business in the fields of processing and manufacturing. (41) Dominion Government Economists—representing the Departments of agriculture, labor, finance, trade and commerce. (42) National Cooperative Credit Society—a central finance, exchange and credit organization for all cooperative credit and finance institutions across the country. (43) Inter-provincial Cooperatives Limited—representing cooperatives in the fields of consumer processing, manufacturing and distribution. (44) Canadian Leadership College—to be set up especially for the further education and training of officials, fieldmen, research workers, managers and secretaries, who have had some years of experience in cooperatives, trade unions, marketing, etc., and who were selected from shorter provincial courses because of their special abilities. Courses should be at least of two years' duration. (45) National Price Regulating Commission—Government appointed chairman, members of the commission to be appointed and paid by their own organization. Prices to be regulated according to a formula based on cost of production of food products. "Cost of Production Units" to be established in each industry by respective organizations and scrutinized for economy and efficiency by economists and experts from other industries. Inspecting staff would be maintained by this national commission which would be financed by Government and industry. TERMINUS

Although wording of parts of this report may suggest definite recommendations, it is offered only as a basis for discussion, and as a means of provoking some new and deeper thinking on some of the problems facing us.

There is much to be learned from a study of the experiences, the successes, the failures and the techniques of people's organizations with considerably longer experiences than ours in eastern Canada. One difficulty is that much of the information which has been published about those groups is so full of "window dressing" that it is almost impossible to discern the basic facts. It is hoped that some writer who has a broad conception of the background and practical experiences on which all those organized efforts are based will compile a brief but factual history of their developments all over the world.

The short international review in Part II of this report is quite incomplete; also incomplete is the appraisal of local trends and conditions. Although incomplete, it is hoped that those surveys and suggestions may be sufficient to warrant some further research which will result in actual improvements.

In this report, based on my experience in Europe and an appraisal of conditions at home, I have endeavored, with all humility, but yet with ardent convictions, to sketch out roughly a general blueprint which may merit consideration, constructive criticism, and unbiased discussion among our Maritime people.

May I, in closing, suggest that those who undertake to criticize or reject any or all of the points raised, for the benefit of readers or listeners, do so constructively by proposing safe and reasonable alternatives by which our people may reach the educational, social, economic, and spiritual goals which all are desirous of attaining.

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