

THE GUARDIAN

Authorized as Second Class Mail Post Office Department, Ottawa. The Island Guardian Publishing Co. President and Associate Editor, 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, TUESDAY, DEC. 9, 1952

Human Rights

The dignity of the individual is being paid homage throughout the world on Wednesday, the fourth anniversary of the adoption and proclamation of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights by the General Assembly of the United Nations. There is, of course, a wide gulf between the aspirations expressed in the Declaration and practice in the world today. The U. N. commission on human rights is still engaged in drafting covenants which set down in treaty form the basic rights to which men and women everywhere are entitled.

The Universal Declaration has become a principal theme in the work of Unesco to raise the educational, scientific and cultural standards of the world. It has influenced projected legislation in this country, although the federal nature of Canada's constitution leaves the subject matter of much of the Declaration in the hands of Provincial Legislatures rather than Parliament. This is proving a brake on early adoption of the provisions of the Declaration by this country because the Federal Government which signs the treaties lacks the power to give them effect.

Although technically a drawback, that divided jurisdiction is regarded by many as a valuable asset in protecting human rights. The larger unit of government equally lacks power to infringe on constitutional rights of the individual and the smaller units, the Provinces, can be expected to be more tender of the rights of the particular part of the Canadian population with which they have to deal.

Exhibition Expansion

It is good news that the Prince Edward Island Exhibition Association, at least on the word of Premier Jones, is to add new and larger buildings at the Exhibition Grounds. Many new buildings have been added in recent years but pressure for space has been felt since the grievous loss by fire of the central buildings.

During Old Home Week a vast throng of visitors puts in an appearance and then is the time for this Province to put its best foot forward and show its products. Other shows, such as the Industries Fair, could well be incorporated in Old Home Week and thus provide visitors with a more complete picture of our resources and industries.

The Premier's estimate that there might be a building with a seating capacity for 4,000 may, of course, be on the optimistic side but the Association has a fine record of success and expansion and even if the directors do not now plan to build on such a scale the estimate may well prove to be valid within a comparatively short time.

Still A Housing Shortage

In the three months of May, June and July, housing starts throughout Canada numbered 2,400 more than in the same period in 1951. The upward trend has continued since then. But net family formations have also been higher than in 1951, especially in the January-June period. Moreover, the drop in housing construction in the latter part of 1951 and early 1952 expanded a backlog of demand which was already serious. Easier financial terms and a greater flow of mortgage money into housing is now helping, along with better supplies of building materials, to increase the number of new homes.

Almost all the homes being built, however, are for sale at prices which low income families cannot meet. In the first seven months of 1952, a total of 44,050 new dwelling units were started. But schemes designed to meet the pocketbooks of low income groups were few and far between. A federal-provincial agreement covered a project for 25 dwellings at Dupnyville, Ont. Another plan, for 202 homes, was started at Cornerbrook, Nfld. Scattered, low cost housing schemes involving only 809 building lots were started at St. John's, Nfld., Saint John, N.B., Prince Rupert, B.C., Moose Jaw, Sask., and in Ontario at Windsor, St. Thomas, Fort William and Midland.

In these provincial-federal projects, the crux of the problem is that the municipalities, already hard pressed for money, must take the initiative. If the need for a larger number of low rental dwellings all across Canada is to be met, there must be a re-

adjustment of tax revenues that will enable the urban centres to meet their responsibilities and function effectively as partners of the federal and provincial governments in these undertakings.

Christmas Season

Christmas carols seem to express the spirit of this season more perfectly than any other of the delightful customs which have grown up around the annual celebration. Their joyous notes recall, as nothing else can, the essential reason for all the celebrating which the world indulges in at this time.

This is, of course, the time of reunion of families, the giving and receiving of gifts, the appearance of Santa Claus, the decoration of Christmas trees, the exchange of greetings, the holding of parties, of thoughtfulness for the unfortunate and the holding of appropriate services. It is the music, however, the carols from early times which seems to blend the rejoicing of earth and heaven.

There are those who fear the loss of the true spirit of Christmas. They think it is in danger of being smothered in fantasy and commercialism. If there is such a danger it is soon ended by the clear joyous music of the carols.

EDITORIAL NOTES

The Vocational Training School is fortunate in obtaining the services of Mr. Arthur H. Duvar as mathematics instructor. His long experience in the garage and automobile business will assure that instruction is on a practical basis.

The Progressive Conservatives have been committed to national contributory health insurance by Dr. W. G. Blair, Member for Lanark, Ontario. The matter is now one of detail and of timing for no major party seems opposed in principle.

There will soon be an end to the variation in time taken by Island pupils to matriculate. Next year a new system will be instituted under which grade twelve is necessary for university matriculation, which is entrance into third year Prince of Wales College. At present grade twelve graduates of the high schools can go into fourth year P.W.C.

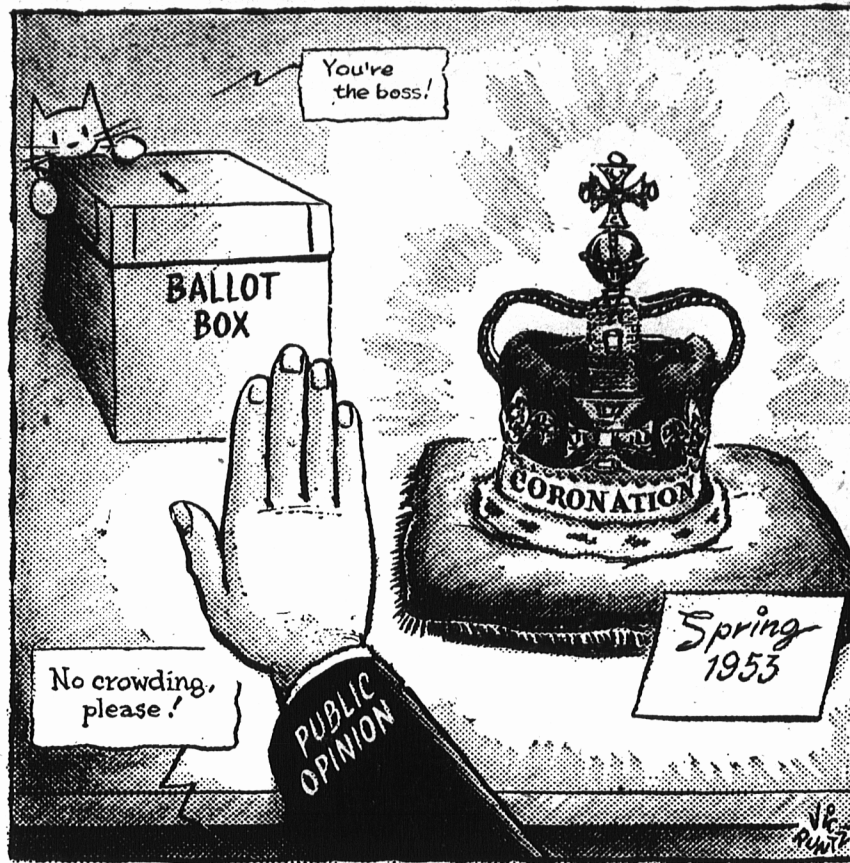
The proposed royal commission on Maritime economic and industrial resources is one step nearer reality. Proposed at the Charlottetown meeting of the Maritime Provinces Board of Trade, it will be urged on the government by the executive of that organization. Such a survey should be the prelude to considerable capital investment in this area.

The revival of the prosperous old-time schooner trade is foreseen by Premier Jones, with the difference that the new flow of trade will be by fleets of trucks. There is a decided similarity of conditions. Like the farmers of old who very frequently doubled as schooner captains, today's farmers more often than not operate their own truck. At the earlier period we needed and had a wharf within a short distance of almost every farm. Today we need road and ferry accommodation.

John Milton, illustrious English poet, was born this date 1608. Long before his university days he was steeped in language and literature and an accomplished organizer. Lofty of character, with delicacy of mind and embarrassing beauty of appearance, he made a profound impression at home and abroad. A Puritan, he married the daughter of "a jovial free-living cavalier". It lasted a month. She came back to him, however, three years later. Although he lacked love and humour his splendid vocabulary, swinging rhyme and magnificent concepts place him next to Shakespeare as a poet.

"Then the Queen's Champion came to the door of the Hall mounted on a goodly white horse, in complete armour, between the Lord High Constable and the Earl Marshal on horseback. At the lower end of the Hall the trumpet sounded thrice, then the Herald cried silence, and proclaimed the Champion's challenge in the following words: 'If any person, of what degree soever, high or low, shall deny or gainsay our Sovereign Lady, Queen Elizabeth... to be the right heir to the Crown of the Realm, or that she ought not to enjoy the same, here is her Champion, who sayeth that he lieth and is a false traitor, being ready to combat with him in person and in this quarrel will adventure his life against him, on what day soever shall be appointed.'" That scornful Challenge will not ring out next June in ancient Westminster Hall as last it did in Queen Anne's Day, regrets Trade Topics. The feudal rite of the Champion of the Kings of England, its origin lost in antiquity, was abandoned more than a century ago.

Highlight Of The Season



The Poet's Corner

OR COUNT THE SWALLOWS

Spring comes upon us slowly leaf by leaf, And wing by wing, one petal at a time; Not stealthily like any common thief But openly she moves into her prime. She sheds her dark cocoon before our eyes, Emerging like a moth with silver wings. Deliberately, never by surprise, Spring takes us on her emerald wanderings.

But never Autumn; not by slow degrees Does she prepare us for the coming death. But tells the aster, strips the startled trees, And trails a crimson path across the earth. Oh better so, than trace the dwindling sun, Or count the swallows leaving, one by one.

—Mae Winkler Goodman in the New York Herald Tribune.

Old Charlottetown

(And P. E. I.)

LAUNCHED AT COVERHEAD

"On the 20th inst., from the shipyard of Messrs John and James McMillan, Cove Head, a substantially built brigantine of 120 tons was launched, called the 'Jane.' Also, on the same day, from Messrs. John and James Millar's shipyard, Cove Head, a fine brigantine of 107 tons, called the 'Hope.' Both vessels are represented to be built in a superior manner, and for the Newfoundland market. 'They were drawn to the channel, a distance of about half a mile, by upwards of seventy horses without the slightest accident, affording much gratification to a great number of persons assembled from Charlottetown and other parts of the Island to witness the interesting spectacle—which was in no small degree heightened by the fineness of the day.'" —The Palladium, March 31, 1845.

Once Spurred

(Financial Post)

Saskatchewan's Socialist Premier Douglas is reported as saying on arrival in England last week: "We are seeking to interest businessmen, industrialists and capitalists in developing our numerous resources." This is quite a change of tune for the man who, less than five years ago, seemed convinced that only governments were capable of developing resources, and who declared that capitalists were not developers but the exploiters of resources. "The doctrinaire who now denies doctrine may have difficulty in convincing Britain's capitalists (who've had more than a taste of operating in a Socialist climate) that his change of heart is permanent, and that Socialism, Douglas-style, is any different from the Attlee brand. To Canadians, the Douglas confession of need for private industry, business and capital will not come as a surprise. They were already aware of the dismal CCF performance in operating state industries in Saskatchewan. They also remember Mr. Douglas' frantic appeals to private industry and capital for aid when the western oil boom approached the borders of his own province."

FAMOUS VOLCANO

The famous volcano of Mount Etna on the island of Sicily has a record of more than 120 major eruptions.

Notes By The Way

Toronto re-elected a Communist school trustee the other day. That's an odd commentary on political thinking in the Queen City of Ontario. —Ottawa Journal.

We read recently where a man in England retired at the age of 68 after 26 years in a foundry. He was presented with the shovel he used during his labors. All he needs now is a pick and he can work another 26 years—then he'll have a pick of his own, too. —Brookville Recorder and Times.

Ottawa's Board of Trade recommends the appointment of a qualified traffic engineer to the city's staff. This proposal deserves close study by the municipal authorities. The city's rapid growth and the increase in motor vehicle traffic, make it extremely difficult for proper control measures to be worked out by police officers or aldermen who cannot devote their whole time to the problem. —Ottawa Citizen.

Chief Mulligan's probe of conditions under which a Merchant Navy veteran died unattended in the police jail a week ago will be even more useful if it tells authorities how it happened that a man who wasn't drunk came to be locked up as a drunk. The probe could reveal a new use for the drunkometer which a group of citizens is buying for the Vancouver police commission—for test purposes. The drunkometer is to be used on people suspected of driving while intoxicated. But if it had been available to use on this man last Saturday it might have told arresting officers that a tuberculous victim who had taken an overdose of sleeping pills wasn't an ordinary drunk. —Vancouver Sun.

We think it a good thing for a newspaper to change its opinion on important matters, from time to time; of course, we do not approve of a newspaper changing its opinion every few days, but we do not think that anyone will accuse the Examiner of being libberish, gibberish or a weather-vane because we wish to change an opinion.

The Age-Old Story

Then Job answered and said... Oh that I knew where I might find him! That I might come even to his seat!... My foot hath held his steps, his way have I kept, and not declined. Neither have I gone back from the commandment of his lips; I have esteemed the words of his mouth more than my necessary food. But he is in one mind, and who can turn him? and what his soul desireth, even that he doeth.

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The Passing Scene

By Observer "THE WEALTH OF NATIONS" One may assume that there is common agreement on the part of economists that in some way economic matters are tied up with the ideal of world peace and that men will never be able to live together as good and dutiful brothers until a way is found to adjust economic practices to high political principles. How to bring this about has occupied the minds of the greatest philosophers from Plato on. About all the ordinary student of affairs can do is to read what one and another of the experts have written about such matters and try, as best he can, to sift the wheat from the chaff. And, as we all know, this is by no means an easy task. Allant efforts have been made to bring about a fair Utopia on this earth but so far there has been no notable success. It may come, but all we know now is that of the making of theories there is no end.

At the moment there is much talk of monetary conferences of one kind and another. Whether it be better to devise new and higher tariffs or to experiment boldly with free trade on a world basis seems to be one of the big questions in the present hour of the world's economic troubles. This dilemma is, of course, no new thing. But the increasing complexity of modern life and the urgent necessity to do something to keep modern civilization (what there is of it) going concern give it added emphasis and importance. Here, as elsewhere, in considering present day tension and pressures, it is helpful to look back into the past in order to ascertain what similarities with the present, if any, existed in earlier stages of society. If there is any truth whatever in the old saying, "There is nothing new under the sun", it certainly applies to economic matters as well as to any other.

In the 17th century, which is only as yesterday in the life span of civilizations, Free Trade versus Controlled Trade was a much discussed question. The popular sentiment was in the main in favour of the latter chiefly because trade of any sort was the privilege of very few people. Monopolies, which nowadays are much frowned upon, were then accepted and respectable institutions. The main objective of every manufacturing country, notably England, was to export as much and import as little as possible. The end governments were chiefly occupied in making import tariffs as high as they could possibly make them. Any real freedom in matters of commerce was for all practical purposes non-existent.

By the middle of the 18th century, however, certain changes in the patterns of economic thinking were becoming evident. And, as often happens, it was the philosophers with their world outlook, not the economists, who were mainly responsible for the stirring of the waters. In England, a country which has given birth to more than its share of good and wise movements, the philosopher David Hume was one of the first to bring a keen, analytical mind to bear on the problems of trade. His chief contribution to the enlargement of economic freedom was his contention that England, as a manufacturing country, could become more and more prosperous only if other countries were given every encouragement to send their goods into England. He saw tariff barriers as more of a hindrance than a help to England's economic development.

But it was Adam Smith, a distinguished philosopher as well as an economist, who did more than anyone else to stir economic thinking in the direction of Free Trade. He has been called "the father of political economy". Historically, this is hardly correct, as, of course, as far back as the 4th century B.C. both Plato and his equally distinguished pupil Aristotle had had a lot to say about political economy. The same may be said of many philosophers and theologians in the Middle Ages, notably Thomas Aquinas. It might, therefore, be more accurate to say that Smith was the founder of a system of political economy which reached right up to the present era, with certain important modifications in the last two or three decades. His most famous work, "An Inquiry into the Nature and Causes of the Wealth of Nations" which appeared in 1776 (it is perhaps significant that the American Declaration of Independence was proclaimed the same year) still remains as one of the really important aids to economic thought.

His conclusions may not be too popular just now, when government control over almost everything is the order of the day. Nevertheless, they have had tremendous influence through the years, and they may have even more in the future, for economic practices, like all other things of the earth, earthy, "have their day and cease to be". Smith's fundamental thesis was that each man should be allowed to seek his own good. Only in this way could he be of service to society. This was a philosophical tenet, and on this simple foundation he proceeded to draw up blue-prints for a great economic structure. Nations, like individuals, should be encouraged to co-operate in trade and have free exchange of goods. Restrictions brought about by a manner of government or bureaucratic interference in the form of prohibitive tariffs, granting of monopolies, etc., he regarded as "restraint in trade", to be discarded. He saw competition as the chief aid to individual and national betterment. However, since he was no hard and fast doctrinaire, he conceded that under extreme national emergency, war or threat of war, for instance, a measure of government control might be expedient, but should always be kept to the minimum commensurate with the emergency. At the same time he felt that public utilities should be government owned and operated. But, so far as ordinary mercantile trade was concerned, it should be altogether free. No stigma should be attached to profits, provided they were reasonable and not acquired at the expense of the worker whose moral right to just recompense for his labour ought to be protected at all times. Smith's economic beliefs did not assure uninterrupted acceptance of Free Trade as an instrument of world order and, as time went on, they had to be re-interpreted and revised in the light of changing conditions. In substance, however, they have continued to influence economic thinking.

It would not be surprising if at the sessions of the current Commonwealth Economic Conference the name of Adam Smith be brought up from time to time. NOT MUCH LEFT MONTREAL — (CP) — Mrs. Yvonne Dion kept a revolver for protection in her restaurant but it didn't stop three young hold-up men who robbed her of \$25. They also took the revolver, which had not been loaded.

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