

THE GUARDIAN

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A Fine Example

The visiting delegates to the annual meeting of the Maritime Provinces Board of Trade conclude their Charlottetown sessions this evening. Most of the work put in by members of the various Boards of Trade is, of course, on a community or provincial level but the Maritime Boards have shown that much can be done by joint action which would be impossible for the separate Boards. The work of the Maritime Transportation Commission is a prime example.

Without the efforts of Mr. Rand H. Matheson and his associates the position of Maritime shippers and consumers would hardly be able to be presented. The various governments do a great deal but it is doubtful if their efforts could be effectively coordinated without the enthusiastic fact-finding and gathering of points of view undertaken by the Commission and by its parent Boards.

Charlottetown is proud to have been host to a worth-while organization, doing an important job for this as for other parts of the Maritimes, also to their distinguished guest speakers. Islanders tend to have a fellow feeling whatever island they may hail from and this Province certainly hopes that the Hon. Mr. Sangster will carry back to the people of the Island of Jamaica warmest greetings from Islanders here.

License Plates

The origin of the car license plate goes farther back into the past than one would suppose, according to the Hamilton Spectator which has done some editorial research on the subject. It stems from the early Greek and Roman practice of licensing vehicles and registering their description for the purpose of raising revenue.

The large vans used to transport merchandise from the seaport of Piraeus inland to Athens, were taxed and their owners issued a scroll giving them official permission to carry on their trade. The revenue was used for the upkeep and protection of the road. The Romans levied similar taxes for the maintenance of their vast network of roads. Generally the traveller was stopped at toll stations and issued certificates that permitted him to travel to the next station. These licences of a sort, however, embodied little more consideration than their value as revenue sources. Little, if any, consideration was given to the use of licensing to control traffic or record the vehicles.

Licensing as we know it today didn't come into common use until after 1900 when the number of cars on the roads rose to such an alarming number that some definite means of controlling the vehicles and protecting their owners against theft became necessary. Also, of course, it still was necessary to pay for roads.

The first license plates apparently were nothing more than some rude shingle the owner devised. The first licence bureaus merely issued a number to the owner and required him to display it, leaving the method entirely up to him. The earliest metal licence plate apparently came into use shortly before World War I. No exact date is available but only a brief period elapsed before some economy-minded legislator hit upon the scheme of having the plates made in prison by convicts.

The practice of alternating the colour schemes of the plates each year apparently didn't arise until the 1920's. This method is in general use today but due to metal shortages and other circumstances, different methods are being devised. As in some Provinces this year, windshield stickers have been used to signify renewal. The State of Connecticut, however, has issued the small, metal renewal tag to be bolted to a corner of the original plate, since the middle 1930's.

The Commonwealth Conference

Meetings of senior government officials of the Commonwealth countries which began in London on Sept. 22 are designed to do the preparatory work only for the Commonwealth Prime Ministers Conference scheduled to begin in London at the end of November. By the very nature of things, says a United Kingdom press release, these meetings may seem unproductive and inconclusive. It will not be possible to judge their results until the Prime Ministers have

reached their decisions.

The principle that the Commonwealth is a free association of equal nations is one reason for the rather long drawn out preparations for the Conference. The interchange of ideas and information between nine governments (and in addition the overseas colonial territories) obviously takes time. The preparatory work of the officials is therefore required to be most far-reaching. They are asked not so much to examine short-term expedients as to inquire into the conditions which over the long run will enable the sterling area to pay its way. The object of the January Conference of Commonwealth Finance Ministers in London was to agree on emergency measures to arrest the drain on the sterling area gold and dollar reserves. This purpose has been achieved and though the officials will have to examine the present position in order to see that there is no danger of a relapse, their main task now is to chart the way ahead for a period of years.

One general assumption underlies most of the ideas that will be examined—that the Commonwealth, if it is to prosper, needs to promote an expanding and stable world trade. Though some measures, such as the development of Commonwealth resources, might suggest that the aim is to make the Commonwealth self-sufficient, it would be misleading to think that self-sufficiency in isolation from the rest of the world is the objective. On the contrary, the object is to expand the Commonwealth's trade with the rest of the world. The development of Commonwealth raw materials, for example, can be pushed ahead with greater confidence in the light of American forecasts of expanding United States demands for imported raw materials for many years ahead.

One of the more controversial questions to be considered is that of tariffs and imperial preference. The General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) will be examined in the light of a thorough re-examination of Commonwealth commercial policy, when two factors will have to be balanced against each other—that GATT limits the freedom to operate preferential tariffs, but on the other hand has been an instrument for lowering tariffs since the war to the benefit of the Commonwealth's trade with the rest of the world.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Chinese Communists have been throwing stones at Canadian troops. Some people really are hard to get along with.

Vigilance is the price of safety and, as Maritime Transportation Commissions manager Mr. Rand Matheson pointed out to the Maritime Provinces Board of Trade, it is also the price of satisfactory transportation service at economically feasible cost.

Not long ago they had a controversy in Britain about the propriety of shooting burglars, armed or otherwise. Now, to give point to the controversy, a householder has been arrested for setting a booby trap which shot and killed a burglar.

Canada's supplying of three fighter squadrons to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization to be based in France is a burden which will have to be increased but which at greatest should be less than the cost of permitting aggression to get started in that part of the world.

It was a builder and not a would-be house owner who said recently that it should be possible to provide houses for a down payment of \$1,000 for the average Canadian building a \$10,000 home. If the trade succeeds in doing so there will be no more problem about disposing of houses that are built.

The operations of the draggers fishing out of Souris are gradually resulting in the building up of an efficient system for getting a wide variety of fish to the housewife in perfect condition. The development of a market for assorted kinds of fish should also rebound to the advantage of the inshore fisherman.

Sir Alfred Munnings, English painter, was born this date 1878. He first exhibited at the Royal Academy in 1898, specializing in turf and horse pictures. His "Epsom Downs" is famous. During the First World War he painted a series of war pictures for the Canadian Government. An uncompromising critic of certain tendencies in modern art, he became president of the Royal Academy in 1944.

Aircraft designers in the United Kingdom are busily working on a revolutionary wing design. It is crescent-shaped—swept back from the fuselage and then straightened out again towards the tips. The crescent design takes advantage of the best features of the delta, the swept-back and the razor-thin straight wing all designed for flying near the speed of sound. Ancient British chariots must have had a somewhat similar appearance.

Concerted Effort



The Poet's Corner

SOUTH WIND If you wake in the night and hear a high sound like wild geese beating by,

It's the south wind riding over the valleys, calling the brooks to their tumbling alleys.

It's the south wind whistling up daffodil weather, his cap afloat with its gay green feather;

It's the south wind calling the twigs to start their buds on the apple tree of your heart.

—Frances Frost.

Tartans Run Riot

(Ottawa Journal)

As we put our Buchanan tartan (bright as the sunset) sport shirts back in mothballs after a good summer we toyed with the knowledge that the Highlanders were never so silly as to wear such gaudy cloth when the troubles were upon them. Against the heather and rocks of the Scottish hills a Buchanan in what we call his tartan would be a certain target for the Hanoverian bullets, and Highlanders with all their chivalry, were not so romantic as to believe they should give an even break to the scarlet and red battalions of their foes.

The sober truth is that the gay tartan, possible of identification by the enthusiastic Scot at 500 paces, is a modern invention. Until 1746, when the old clan system was shredded by English cannon at Culloden the Highlanders wore their own tartans with their own dyes. Their colors came from the heather, the mosses, the flowers, and they were subdued if handsome. They blended naturally with the colors of the woods and hills where the clansman fought and hunted.

Highland dress was proscribed for 36 years after 1746 in the United Kingdom and it is a footnote to history that early Highland immigrants to Canada defiantly wore their plaids at a time when they could not have done so at home. But when Queen Victoria by her Royal patronage, made the Highlanders, their music, their tartans and their purple glens fashionable the old arts of using the native dyes in cottage weaves had very often been lost. That was when imagination and color were allowed to run riot and we have for our lighter, hours patterned cloth that may not be well founded historically but is mighty nice just the same.

The Age-Old Story

And they were in the way going up to Jerusalem; and Jesus went before them; and they were amazed; and as they followed, they were afraid. And he took again the twelve, and began to tell them what things should happen unto them, saying, Behold, we go up to Jerusalem; and the Son of man shall be delivered unto the chief priests; and unto the scribes; and they shall condemn him to death; and they shall deliver him to the Gentiles; and they shall mock him, and shall scourge him, and shall spit upon him, and shall kill him; and the third day he shall rise again.

FILM FESTIVAL

YORKTON, Sask. — (CP) — At least 16 countries have indicated their intention to participate in Canada's second annual International Documentary Film Festival. It will be held here Oct. 16-17.

Days Of Ur-Nammu

(New York Herald Tribune)

Hammurabi evidently didn't start it, after all. It was a gentleman named Ur-Nammu who devised the first set of laws—at least the first set we know about today. Actually, man must have been making laws ever since he discovered that there were other men on earth to contend with. Hammurabi's Code, which is dated anywhere from 2050 B. C. to 1700 B. C., has heretofore held the distinction of being the oldest decipherable set of laws on record. Those who have deciphered Ur-Nammu's tablet think it is a bit older. Ur-Nammu was by profession the King of Sumer, which included the city of Ur, whence Abraham came. He must have been a gentle monarch indeed, for in a violent rage he ordained a system of cash fines for crimes, rather than the eye-for-an-eye treatment favored by Hammurabi.

Nobody knows too much about Ur-Nammu nowadays, but it is possible that he devised his tolerant law system in his old age, after some of his youthful impetuosities had subsided. At least it is recorded that in his younger days he put to death an opposing king who made war against him. At any rate, the Ur-Nammu Code shows that society has been up against the same problems for a long time. In those days, there were "grabbers" of oxen, sheep and donkeys just as there are grabbers of other things today. It also was felt necessary to see to it that "the orphan did not fall a prey to the wealthy" and the "widow...to the powerful" and, most succinct of all, that "the man of one shekel did not fall a prey to the man of one mina."

That Ur-Nammu did not altogether succeed in his aspirations is demonstrated by the fact that, long after he died, other people had to go right on making laws against the same sort of day-after-day fact, and so long as a matter of fact, and so long as the great struggle for justice still is being waged, it may not be amiss to take time out to salute a man who waged it so many millennia ago.

Old Charlottetown

(And P. E. I.)

NOTEWORTHY EVENTS

The following notes were among those found recorded in an old prayer book of Peter MacGowan, Esq., a prominent citizen of Charlottetown in years gone by:

25 May 1863: Corner stone of Methodist chapel laid this day.

17th June 1869, Wesleyan conference in Charlottetown.

31 Dec. 1872, the old Parish burying ground (Elm Avenue) closed. New cemetery (Sherwood) opened for interment. The remains of the wife of Archibald MacNeill were the last in sepulchre in old burying ground.

1 Jan. 1873, new cemetery (Sherwood) opened for interment.

6 May, 1884: Foundation of second Methodist Church near the old burying ground (Grace Church, Upper Prince St.)

Free shins to all and sundry will be offered by one exhibitor at the Canadian Shoe and Leather Fair here Oct. 14-17. The shoe polish manufacturer is operating a shoeshine parlor where no fee is necessary.

FREE SHINES

TORONTO — (CP) — Free shoeshines to all and sundry will be offered by one exhibitor at the Canadian Shoe and Leather Fair here Oct. 14-17. The shoe polish manufacturer is operating a shoeshine parlor where no fee is necessary.

CLARK'S FEED SERVICE

Table with columns for feed types and prices. Includes items like M. Pig Starter Pellets \$4.90, M. Hog Finisher Pellets \$4.10, M. Hog Grower Mash \$4.00, M. Sow Ration \$4.35, M. Hog Grower Pellets \$4.10, M. Redhead Egg Pellets \$4.95, M. Hog Finisher Mash \$4.00, M. Dairy R. (S) \$4.25, M. Calf Starter Grower Pellets \$5.65, SHUR-GAIN, Pig Starter \$4.95, Sow Ration \$4.25, Hog Grower \$4.15, Laying Mash \$4.75, Hog Finisher \$4.05, Calf Starter Grower \$4.25.

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AGENTS THROUGHOUT THE PROVINCE

Notes By The Way

In Hollywood they are making a new movie of the sinking of the Titanic and they are to call it "Nearer My God To Thee." Too much to expect that Hollywood with all the fortunes it spends on advisers, could ever find anyone to tell it what's bad taste. — Ottawa Journal.

The useful harvest helper in Western Canada drives a tractor, works the swather, operates the combine, trucks grain to the farm granary or elevator and works in anywhere in all the mechanized operations of the harvest. The \$15-a-day man is a skilled worker. — Farmer's Advocate.

A Brockville man was caught in a cement mixer recently and did 50 turns before he was rescued. At the Exhibition, a whirling like that would have cost him at least fifty cents. — Kingston Whig-Standard.

The privacy of the creature world has disappeared. The movement of worms beneath the soil are traced by radioactive wires installed in them. Mosquitoes made radioactive report their whereabouts to geiger counters. Now the Resources Department announces that underwater television will keep an eye on fishes at depths where divers could not work in safety. — Ottawa Journal.

It's a corker how many United States dimes, quarters and nickels there are in the change made these days. Not so long ago they went into private hoard. It is the old story about cheap money always being plentiful and good money going into hiding. — St. Catharines Standard.

In Port Elizabeth, South Africa, a Negro was charged with unlawfully addressing a meeting. "I was not making speeches," he told the judge. "I was praying. It was the proper thing to do after the arrest of the resisters. The Lord expects us to pray aloud on such occasions." Replied the magistrate: "The Lord said it was proper to pray in a public place, but not in a church or hall. I suggest you read Chapter Six of the Gospel of St. Matthew. Three dollars or ten days." — Wall Street Journal.

How many persons in our family? Four. Then two of you are going to be injured in traffic accidents before you die. Shocking, isn't it, when you look at it that way? And yet statistically it is a fair assumption. The National Safety Council asserts it is an effective way to curb traffic accidents, one out of every two persons living today will be injured in traffic before he dies. — Winnipeg Tribune.

To the car designers reduction of front end weight is something more than just a desire. It is a condition. It rapidly is becoming necessary. Numerous devices depending upon the engine for power have been added to the post war automobile. In many instances they have added a certain amount of weight. This has made it increasingly difficult to maintain the proper weight distribution throughout the car. It also has the effect, engineers say, of putting more of the braking load on the front wheels. — Sault Ste. Marie Star.

A vital point too often overlooked by employers is that hiring physically handicapped persons is not a charitable act but rather a sound business venture. For such people usually are capable and devoted workers; the fight they have had to wage against their adversity often results in strengthened character and steadfastness of purpose. — New York Times.

A man of infinite jest was Ian McKay, the London columnist who died suddenly on Friday. He made his home town of Wick, in Northern Scotland familiar to millions of readers with remembrances of his happy boyhood, he applied his wit to modern men and affairs and when he died his employers, who published the veteran London Star considered him the most popular writer since Charles Dickens, also a Star columnist. — Ottawa Journal.

This is the time of the year when nature is so bountiful for those who like to take a little extra effort in their homes to put up jellies and jams. Crabapples, plums and grapes are at their peak preserves and jelly that will grace the table during the long winter months. It requires a little extra work and a small investment to put up a supply of jelly. But it is one way to keep down the cost of living. — Kitchener-Waterloo Record.

When a British Columbian graduates from our provincial law school and is called to the bar he pays a fee of \$500 for the right to practice his profession. But if the graduate of a Canadian University outside British Columbia comes to practice he is charged a fee of \$1,500. The whole purpose of this discriminatory fee (which can be an effective barrier to a young man without financial means) is to keep lawyers out of British Columbia. It is a tariff, nothing less, and as such is repugnant to the whole spirit of our constitution, which forbids all interprovincial barriers. — Victoria Times.

According to Indian delegates at the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association's meetings in Ottawa, India now has on its national radio service a program similar to the C. B. C.'s Farm Forum. The idea was borrowed by Indian visitors to this country some while ago. Canadians, for their part, may do some borrowing from India as they become better acquainted with it. In connection with Senate reform, for example, it will become interesting to see whether in India an upper house filled by the various state legislatures contributes to effective federal government or hinders it. — Ottawa Citizen.

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