

Soil Conservation

It is general practice to differentiate between wasting resources and continuing ones, between mining operations and cropping. It is indeed a vital distinction. When an oil field is used up or when a lead mine peters out mankind can only turn to other sources of supply, if any.

The latter, it goes without saying, is by far the more serious. It used to be thought that the world had almost limitless arable land awaiting the plow. The true situation is, however, far different. There is little land left to be cultivated that is really worth the effort.

We have just concluded publishing a series of excerpts from a report by the Prince Edward Island Branch of the Agricultural Institute of Canada on Soil Conservation and Related Problems. It shows clearly that those who are best acquainted with the problems of erosion and depletion take a very serious view of the situation.

Many steps must be taken to preserve the fertility of the top six inches, large projects and little local practices. We need to feel about the soil as a trust of which we are temporary custodians, in honour bound to turn it over intact to those who come after.

Having such an attitude, it is then our responsibility to learn how to carry it out, to study the present condition of the soil and the effect of various measures. Much has already been learned but more remains to be found out. We dare not shirk the responsibility of finding out and acting accordingly.

Deserting Farmers

In this part of the world farm owners sometimes give lack of help as a reason for giving up or curtailing their farm operations. In Communist Czechoslovakia, according to a report from West Germany, farmers are taking up other work for an exactly opposite reason; collective farms, the only kind permitted in that country, have so many men on them that they do not produce enough to make them economically feasible for the group; consequently, so the report says, farmers are deserting in large numbers.

As always happens when internal conditions are unsatisfactory, the Communist leaders are blaming "enemy propaganda" for the wholesale defections; the complaint, however, is weakened by a directive from the Party's Central Committee to its district agents to go slowly in the matter of setting up new collectives in other branches of the country's economy.

It is well known that farmers, traditionally, are an independent and resourceful lot of men; they will take expert advice readily and, when occasion demands, they will join together voluntarily for common aims, but they do not take kindly to attempted bureaucratic control of their way of life. It would not be surprising if the farmers of Czechoslovakia and of other countries at present dominated by Communist power were to make it so difficult for their bureaucratic overlords that the latter, for the sake of economic order, will be forced to let up on their many rules and ordinances which have kept citizens in all categories in a state of virtual bondage. More than once in Europe's history farmers have taken the lead in defying the tyrant. It could happen again.

Atomic Waste Disposal

For some time, now the scientists have been trying to find some satisfactory way of disposing of radioactive wastes from atomic piles. In fact, these wastes are causing almost as much worry as the bombs themselves. They cannot be buried in the earth or thrown in the sea because of their contaminating effect on whatever they touch. The practice up to now has been to store them underground in steel tanks; that, obviously, is only a short term solution, for eventually the tanks will spring leaks.

Professor Ira Freeman of Rutgers University believes that unless a way of disposal can be found very soon the planet will become uninhabitable within the next hundred years or so. His own suggestion is that the wastes should be scattered on

Mars or on some of the smaller asteroids which run back and forth between that planet and neighbouring Jupiter. This would mean building a large number of garbage carrying rockets, but Professor Freeman is of the opinion that this would present no great obstacle.

No doubt it could be done; but, first of all, it would seem only right and proper to settle the question of whether or not there are living beings of some sort on Mars or any of the other planets to which the wastes might be conveyed. If the answer to the question should turn out to be "yes", the inhabitants of these planets would have every right to complain about being afflicted by a destructive force in the creation of which they had no part. Certainly it would be a very poor way for earth-man to inaugurate the new inter-planetary relationship.

An Exemplary Citizen

The late Mr. James E. Harris was widely known and esteemed, not only in his professional capacity, but in many fields of community enterprise. As an architect he designed many fine churches, hospitals and public buildings throughout the Province, and was an acknowledged authority on architectural history and design. He was also keenly interested in painting, poetry and music, and took a prominent part in promoting these activities as a vital part of our cultural heritage.

A veteran of the First World War, in which he served with the Royal Canadian Artillery, Mr. Harris was among the organizers of the Canadian Legion movement here, and did much to promote its interests and those of his fellow veterans. He served for many years on the board of trustees of the Prince Edward Island Hospital, and on numerous committees in connection with public health, education, and social welfare campaigns. Generous of his time, talent and means toward every worthy cause, he regarded these contributions as an obligation of good citizenship which it was a privilege as well as a duty to discharge.

Mr. Harris' memory will be cherished by thousands of friends and acquaintances throughout the Maritime Provinces, with whom The Guardian joins in extending sincere sympathy to his bereaved widow and daughter.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Spring weather and examinations go ill together. College students caught between contending forces are being tried as well as examined.

The controversy between Ottawa and Quebec about income tax does not seem to be so much a constitutional issue as a public relations one. Each Government seems intent on convincing the taxpayer that it is the other's tax that goes on top.

It is a commonplace that a better understanding will help to make a success of marriage. A Florida health expert, however, takes the stand that it is foot comfort or otherwise that determines whether a marriage stands or falls.

Fruit sales comprise only about one per cent of farm income in this Province. Nevertheless it is distinctly encouraging that revenue from this source should be on the increase. The possibilities of a fruit-growing industry have hardly been scratched.

Sir Gordon Richards, British jockey, was born this date 1904. His father was a miner in Shropshire and Richards learned to ride pit ponies. He was apprenticed to Hartigan, the trainer and first raced in 1920, becoming champion jockey five years later, a position he has held ever since with few short intervals. In 1947 he rode no less than 269 winners.

Canada and the U. S. will see an unusual type of Scottish dancing when the Celtic Ballet tours the North American continent this summer, according to "This Week in Britain." "Our ballet dancing is not the pure classical type," says Celtic Ballet's principal dancer, 24-year-old Bruce McLure of Glasgow. "It is a flowing style which includes both classical and modern movements. We even give in some numbers."

Bellringers throughout Britain are making plans to welcome the Queen with "merry noise" when she returns on May 15th. Britain has about 40,000 voluntary bell ringers, men and women. A relay system seems likely to ensure that ringing of bells will be continuous across many parts of England for hours after the Queen's approach. In the City of London, for instance, the leader of the bell ringers at St. Michael's Church, Cornhill, intends to assemble a team of 10 or more who will go the rounds of St. Michael's, St. Botolph Without in Aldgate, St. Botolph's of Bishopgate, St. Olave's in Hart Street and St. Bartholomew the Great of Smithfield, ringing for half an hour at each in turn.



Coming Up For Adjudication

Hope For The Feeble-Minded

Science Information Service, London

(SIS: Medical Features)

The mentally retarded person has been venerated in some primitive societies and burned at the stake in others. He has been celebrated in history, story and play as the "village half-wit", made the target of jokes, hidden away in back rooms, or locked up in institutions.

These attitudes have arisen very largely from ignorance of the nature of mental backwardness. Now, however, the condition is recognised as a disease, like tuberculosis and diabetes, and not as a hopeless and often shameful blight. The trouble is not governed by heredity as much as was once thought. This three months of assurance: prenatal environment, birth abnormalities, infection, chemical poisoning and nutritional deficiencies.

In regard to prenatal environment, German measles is a significant factor. In 1943, a group of Australian doctors found that a number of mothers who had developed the disease during the first three months of pregnancy gave birth to children suffering from brain abnormalities and eye cataracts. This finding was subsequently confirmed in many other parts of the world.

Other studies have disclosed a connection between mental retardation and a substance in the bloodstream of the mother which is incompatible with the blood of the unborn child. Some researchers have found that repeated X-ray, or radium, treatments during certain periods of pregnancy may bring about damage to the unborn baby's brain.

There are some dangerous fallacies about prenatal environment, such as that the marriage of first cousins produces mentally defective children. This is certainly not confirmed by the studies of the Levinson Foundation for the Mentally Retarded, in Chicago. While an occasional case of feeble-mindedness can be found in such offspring, people of unusual talent and intelligence are often born from these marriages.

Another common misconception exploded by Dr. A. Levinson is that mentally defective children are born largely to parents over forty. In a group of 65 patients, the average age of the mother was found to be 30, and of the father, 31.

Mental defectiveness may arise when there is an insufficient amount of oxygen during, or immediately after, birth. This is often found to lead to damage to the brain cells.

Hormones, the body's chemical regulators, may also play an important role. In sufficient secretion of the hormone-producing thyroid gland may cause a newborn child to develop cretinism, a condition of arrested physical and mental development. Impaired function of the pituitary gland is believed to have a close relationship to mongolism, a disorder marked by extreme mental deficiency and physical abnormalities.

Some infectious diseases involving the nervous system may leave permanent damage to the brain, and consequently, cause mental deficiency. Among these are encephalitis, an inflammation of the brain, meningitis, an inflammation of brain membranes; and some types of syphilis. Fortunately, modern antibiotics have proved highly effective in combating these diseases, and in checking them before permanent damage is done to vital organs.

With these causes now known, much of the mental backwardness that might have occurred in the future can be prevented. But what of the feeble-minded child who is already with us?

One of the most promising approaches is an operation which increases the flow of blood and oxygen to the brain. The two doctors who invented it report that about 35 per cent of the first 125 mentally retarded children on whom it was performed have shown improvement. The results were particularly gratifying in patients who had also been suffering from convulsive seizures.

Surprising results have been achieved in the field of nutrition. In one clinic, for instance, a "build-up" diet using iron and multiple vitamins, including Vitamin B 12, has produced marked improvements.

"Although no specific treatment has been discovered to cure every case of mental retardation", say the experts, "there are many who can be helped to a surprising degree. Something constructive can be done for every patient."

Not long ago, almost any disease was considered virtually hopeless, once it reached the brain. In the five years from 1936 to 1940, for instance, the death rate from abscesses of the brain at a large American hospital was 80 per cent. That however, was before the coming of the earth-mould antibiotics.

In the period from 1946 to 1950, hospital authorities have reported the death rate from the brain abscesses fell to 34 per cent — and most of these deaths were of patients whose condition had not been recognised early enough. Both penicillin and streptomycin have helped to establish his record.

In recent years, a newer antibiotic has also proven to be a powerful weapon against brain abscesses. This antibiotic, called bacitracin, is injected with streptomycin directly into the abscess cavity. With such aid, the hospital authorities say, there has not been a single death which could be traced to the spreading of the infection after treatment.—(SIS.)

Old Charlottetown

and P. E. I.

From the Examiner, Dec. 13, 1888.

The Osborne House was, we understand, the first to receive a continuous supply of water from the waterworks.

Mr. Simon Bolger, of the Queen House, has leased the Rankin House premises, on the corner of Pownall and Water Streets, which he proposes thoroughly refitting and renovating, and opening for the accommodation of permanent and transient boarders, about the first of May next.

In his comment upon the pictures at the Loan Exhibition, now being held in Montreal, the Gazette says: "Mr. Harris has given us a sympathetic piece of portraiture in his head of 'An Exile', entirely admirable in its subdued strength of drawing and colour, and reminding one of Titian in its handling."

At the regular session of Port-la-Joie, I. O. O. F. encampment held last evening, the following Patriarchs were elected office bearers for 1888: G. P. W. G. Gillespie; H. F. W. R. Boreham; S. W. John S. Nelson; Scribe, Theo. L. Chappelle; F. S. Robert D. Coffin; Treasurer, Walter P. Doull; J. A. Charles Lawson.

Between Saturday night and Monday morning the water in the

The Poet's Corner

FROM THE LOTUS EATERS

There is sweet music here that softer falls Than petals from blown roses on the grass, Or night-dews on still waters between walls Of shadowy granite, in a gleaming mass; Music that gentler on the spirit lies, Than tired eyelids upon tired eyes; Music that brings sweet sleep from the blissful skies. Here are cool mosses deep, And thro' the moss the ivy creep, And in the stream the long-leaved flowers weep, And from the craggy ledge the poppy hangs in sleep.

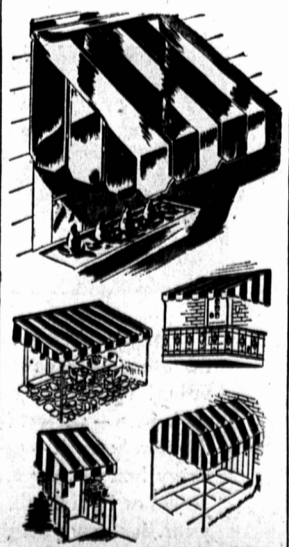
—Lord Tennyson.

reservoir now in course of construction in the Royalty of Charge, escaped and flooded the quarry owned and worked by Mr. Thomas Campbell, of this city, and did damage which he estimated at \$10,000.

There is a good deal of talk around town just now about the Whitechapel terror, 'Jack the Ripper.' Many timid women believe that he is in the city and positively refuse to leave their house after nightfall without an escort, while others go about in fear and trembling and some look carefully under the bed each night before retiring.

Dogfish which prey on other fish on both Atlantic and Pacific shores are littoral sharks about three feet long.

YOUR ALUMA KRAFT ALUMINUM AWNING DEALER



CHANDLER BROS. Dial 6557 CHARLOTTETOWN

Advertisement for Gillette razors. Includes illustrations of a man shaving and text: 'FIRED INSPIRED HIRED', 'No Other Low-Priced Blades Shave As Clean And Easy As This Gillette.', '3 for 10¢', '8 for 25¢', 'Larger-Size Package Not Compartment For Used Blades.'

NOTES BY THE WAY

The who burn up the road, apparently believe they won't need it to come back on.—Mocce Jay Times-Herald.

Alberta brewers, Calgary reports, are working toward another production peak. The land evidently is flowing with more than oil and Social Credit.

The baseball season is getting into full swing. How come Senator McCarthy hasn't done something about the Cincinnati Reds?

The Square frying pan is advertised as more efficient. Now it only remains for Nature to produce the square egg.—Edmonton Journal.

The tragic story of the Baltimore baby who strangled to death in his high chair while his mother made a 15-minute trip to the grocery store calls attention again to the fact that mothers have a full-time job. Not only must they care for their babies in every physical sense—they must think for them—must foresee things which could be dangerous—must lug them along to grocery stores if proper help is not available at home. It's a tough job, being a mother, and the price for this high office is eternal vigilance.—(Cleveland Plain Dealer).

Some of the heroes and heroines of history and romance are not very bright examples for the young, if judged by modern standards. Today they occupy honored places in school text books, moving across the pages like dazzling, romantic shadows, but it is certain that if most of them had lived in these days magistrates and probation officers would have been interested in them. Ancient reputations diminish when modern rules of conduct are applied to the behavior of those who made them. One could hardly expect the public today to make a heroine of a 16-year-old Cleopatra for making violent love to a 50-year-old Caesar whose reputation was known throughout Europe. There would certainly be a public jail sentence for Romeo for abducting 14-year-old Juliet, a teen-ager obviously in need of parental care. World opinion would be outraged if a modern Paris carried off a 13-year-old Helen of Troy to live with him in Sparta. Indeed, the law would step in and send Helen to a school for delinquent girls; Paris would be sent to jail on a serious charge and all the sympathy would be for Menelaus. History has twisted this and like Romeo and Juliet made it glorious, painting romance instead of juvenile delinquency. Or were the ancients right; was it really romance and were these people adventurous and great, and have the rules of

The Age Old Story

Afterward Jesus findeth him in the temple, and said unto him, Behold, thou art made whole: sin no more, lest a worse thing come unto thee.

Tip Top Tailors advertisement. Includes illustrations of suits and text: 'Tip Top Tailors', 'READY-TO-WEAR SLACKS \$17.50 SPORTS JACKETS \$32.50 BLAZERS \$32.50', 'TIP TOP TAILORED TO PERFECTION', '99 GRAFTON STREET'.

ALLISON MacLEOD YOU'LL FIND A CAR OR TRUCK PRICED TO SUIT YOUR BUDGET

Due to the volume of sales of our new cars and trucks we can offer a great variety of good used cars and trucks. These vehicles are priced to afford you tremendous savings as those now on our lot must be sold to make way for others.

EVERY USED CAR AND TRUCK SOLD UNTIL MAY 15, 1954 WILL BE REGISTERED AT OUR EXPENSE. EASY G. M. A. C. TERMS

LOOK AT THE PRICES

Table listing car models and prices. Columns: Model, Was, Now. Includes: '49 PONTIAC SEDAN No. 6, '49 PONTIAC SEDAN, Chieftain No. 17PB, '46 PONTIAC SEDAN, Chieftain No. 17, '46 PONTIAC SEDAN 71PB, '49 CHEVROLET SEDAN 13 PB, '38 OLDS. SEDAN 3BB, '51 BUICK COACH 5, '48 DODGE SEDAN 39PC, '49 FORD SEDAN 15PA, '49 MERCURY SEDAN 46PA.

Table listing truck models and prices. Columns: Model, Was, Now. Includes: '53 DODGE 1/2 Ton 21GA, '52 DODGE 1 Ton 7T, '50 INTERNATIONAL 1-Ton 15T, '51 STUDEBAKER 1/2 Ton 9GA, '52 MERCURY 1 Ton 9T, '50 GMC 1/2 Ton 18GA.

OTHERS TO CHOOSE FROM COME IN AND TRADE TODAY. OPEN EVENINGS 7-9. Telephone 7365 for a demonstration of the car of your choice. YOUR PONTIAC BUICK, G.M.C. DEALER Kent & Cumberland Sts.