

THE GUARDIAN

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CIRCULATION "Covers Prince Edward Island like the dew" "The strongest memory is weaker than the weakest ink."

CHARLOTTETOWN WEDNESDAY, DEC. 30, 1953

Irish Moss

Although the important Irish moss industry of Prince Edward Island is not mentioned, there is an informative article on the industry generally in the Christmas number of Northern Circuit by Sean McGregor.

War stimulated the industry and there was a decline afterwards, particularly with the resumption, in 1948, of imports of the moss from France and other countries.

Working from flat-bottomed boats, fishermen scrape the moss from the rocks with long-handled rakes. Storms assist the harvesting by casting the moss on the shores.

Some of the uses of the product generally are as one of the ingredients in the so-called water paints; to impart a gloss to shoe stains and leather dressings;

It has many applications in the food industry; as a stabilizer, for example, to prevent the cocoa settling in chocolate milk;

To correct the omission of this Province in the original article, it may be added that from January to November, 1953, Island fishermen collected 10,221,000 pounds valued at \$118,839.00.

The Opposition's Role

The second of a series of two very informative, and entirely non-partisan, articles on the role of Her Majesty's Opposition in Parliament appears in the current issue of the Canadian Liberal.

As the head of the party out of office, the Leader of the Opposition has the choice of those to be trained as future Ministers and the duty of organizing them in the meantime into a team capable of challenging the Government with intimate knowledge of all departments of public affairs.

The modern House of Commons, writes Lord Campion, may be said to have begun as the centre of constitutional opposition to the Stuart kings, whose administration it strove to control through its power over the public purse.

ling their administration. The result of this was that the House of Commons became divided into two parts with differing functions. The majority turned round and became supporters of the King's government.

Under these conditions it was common enough for the Government to be defeated in the House. A brilliant speech could turn votes and a deal with independent members or a discontented section of the Government's supporters could put the Government in minority.

In the third quarter of the 19th century a profound change took place in the constitution of Parliament; a new phase began—the democratic phase—in which we now are. This was marked by a great increase in the power of party organizations and in the strictness of party discipline in the House of Commons.

Perhaps there are many who could write more effectively, but seeing they have not, I feel it my duty to give expression to the facts as they are in the hope that the public may have a proper understanding as to why there are labour disputes in this Province.

EDITORIAL NOTES

A Maori spokesman in New Zealand was able to say, "We thank God for a century and more of British rule." That is a challenge to Canadians to see to it that our own aboriginal races have cause to feel the same way.

Many people will be pondering the matter of making good resolutions for the forthcoming year. Perhaps a first resolution to be moderate in what we expect of ourselves would make succeeding ones easier to keep.

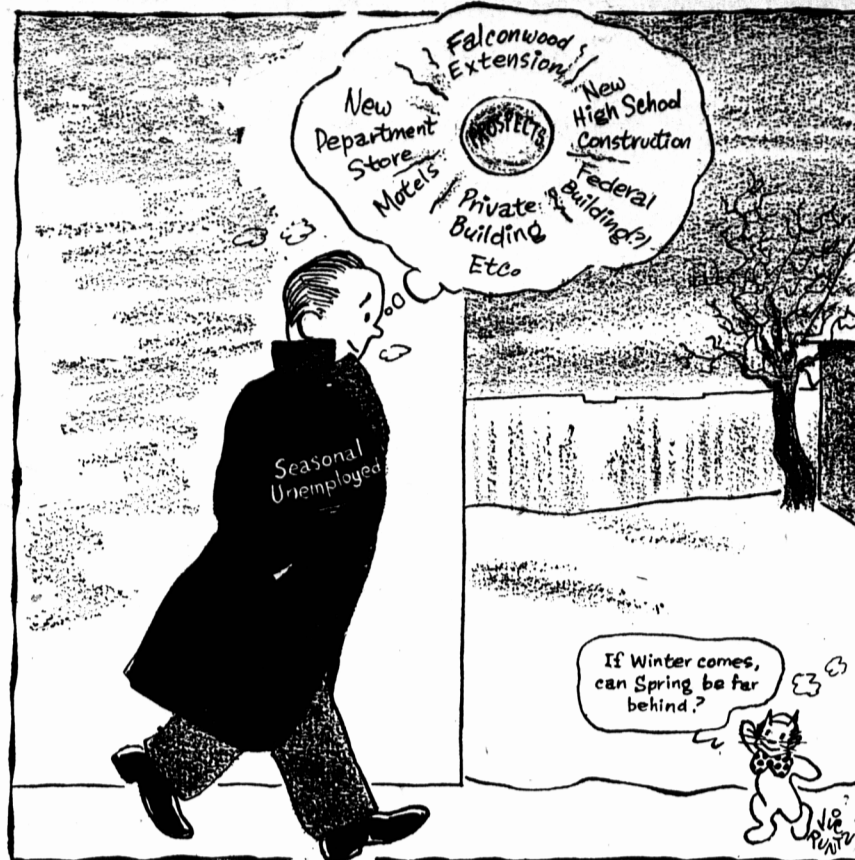
The trees which add so much to the gaiety of the holiday season are becoming drier and more inflammable in heated rooms. It may seem a pity to take them down but the earlier it is done the better for safety's sake.

Humour is generally risky as the Royal Canadian Navy found out. When a fireman was rolling up a hose after a small shipboard fire had been extinguished a quartermaster facetiously chided a member of the dockyard fire department for being on the officers' gangway.

Canadian gold interests look somewhat suspiciously at the sales of Russian gold in Britain. There is, however, a very favorable aspect to the transactions. In the final analysis they will amount to large sales of equipment to Russia without the necessity of buying Russian goods which in most cases would have been in direct competition with our own exports.

Stephen Butler Leacock, Canadian economist and humorist, was born this date 1869. He came to Canada at the age of seven. Educated at Upper Canada College, he taught there and at McGill University, becoming head of the department of economics and political science.

Warming Thoughts



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.

THE LABOR DISPUTE

Sir,—For some time now there have been many in this locality who have expressed hope that someone would write you concerning the labor situation in Prince Edward Island.

Perhaps there are many who could write more effectively, but seeing they have not, I feel it my duty to give expression to the facts as they are in the hope that the public may have a proper understanding as to why there are labour disputes in this Province.

To me the "labor disputes" are in reality a repetition of the circumstances prevalent in the days of Charles Dickens which inspired him to write the Christmas Carol in which he pictures old Scrooge as the employer, and Bob Cratchit as the underprivileged labourer.

It appears to be a small thing for an employer to make a bad example of an employee organization, through which the employer seeks protection, by presenting the trade union to the public as an unreasonable party which always demands more than the necessary rights and privileges of the employee.

I am quite well aware of the fact that the employer has rights, and his privileges should not be denied. But on the other hand every employer is in duty bound to pay his worker what is right.

Can we find an employer who does not maintain the hope of the final benefits which are attainable through Christianity? I think all have such hope. But what do the Scriptures say regarding the payment of a just wage? "Thou shalt not muzzle the ox which treadeth out the corn." Even an ox is worthy of a living.

Heretofore, the attention of the public has not been drawn to the circumstances which confront labour in this Province. I have in my possession a chart which I obtained from the Department of Labour at Ottawa, which states the cost of living and wage rates prevalent in Maritime industrial centers.

Now you are in a position to compare the cost of living and wage rates in P. E. Island with those of other Maritime industrial centers. Having done so you are in a position to decide whether the United Brotherhood of Electrical Workers are entitled to a

The Age Old Story

Fear thou not; for I am with thee; he not dismayed; for I am thy God; I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness. Behold, I will make thee a new sharp threshing instrument having teeth: thou shalt thresh the mountains, and beat them small, and shalt make the hills as chaff.

raise in salary. And perhaps I should go further and say that every tradesman and labourer is entitled to at least a forty per cent raise in hourly rates, and a five-day week.

The five-day week will not only distribute employment but will give every bread-winner an opportunity to become better acquainted with his own children and enjoy more intimate fellowship with them.

I believe that I am safe in stating that there are at least 20,000 persons in this Province who are directly connected with labour and are therefore faced with the problem of inadequate wages to meet the present cost of living.

In the effort to avoid the necessity of paying a higher wage I fear that many employers have tried to start a quarrel between the worker and the farmer by saying, "The farmer is opposed to tradesmen and labourers getting higher wages."

Why should the labourer bite the hand of him who produces his food? And why should the farmer break the teeth of those who consume his produce? The more money the labourer receives for his work, the greater will be the quantity of farm produce which he will consume.

I wish that every unjust employer in this Province could get a glimpse of "The Ghost of Christmas", both past and present, as did old Scrooge when Dickens sets forth in a "Christmas Carol."

I am, Sir, etc. K. R. MacMILLAN, Recording Secretary for Local Union No. 2298, St. Eleanors, P. E. I.

Old Charlottetown

And P. E. I.

SNOWBOUND RAILWAY

From a letter by Mr. Schreiber on behalf of the contractors of the P. E. Island Railway, to Mr. Swinyard, Commissioner acting for the Dominion Government.

"As you are aware, heavy snowstorms have prevailed the past week, completely blocking the traffic. The snow now, upon many parts of the line, is from eight to fifteen feet deep. On Tuesday last I despatched two engines, with a snow plough, to the westward to raise the blockade.

"Yesterday, being a fine day, and feeling that if we left the road blocked you might consider we had acted unhandsonely, and shirked a responsibility, we concluded, very much against my better judgement, to dispatch a train both east and west. Accordingly, three engines and a snow-plow left Charlottetown, westward, at 8.30 a.m. and two engines and a snow-plow started east about half an hour later.

"The eastern train I have had no tidings of since she left Charlottetown. This morning two engines were despatched westward, to take the place of the disabled machines. I have come to a full determination that if they succeed in reaching town tonight the 18th inst. I will house them believing it to be a far more prudent course than sending them out in the storm to be battered to pieces."

"Our train expenses have been very heavy the past week, and the receipts nil. To expect us to continue to operate the road for another week, under the special arrangement, is, we maintain, unreasonable, as, within a week, it is possible we might have to raise the snow-blockade several times, and derive no benefit from it thereafter."

MORE AIRMAIL CANBERRA (OP) — Airmail services in Australia have increased from 59 to 87 in the past 10 years. Airmail routes now cover 54,000 miles carrying about 46,500,000 articles a year.

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Notes By The Way

Probably the hardest kind of prosperity to stand is the neighbor's. — Kitchener-Waterloo Record.

School the year round has been proposed by an American teacher. The young try are reminding their parents that there is enough crime news as it is. — Hamilton Spectator.

"The human eye reaches its maximum size at 10 years of age," says the science note, although some think this happens on Christmas morning at the age of four. — Stratford Beacon-Herald.

"The world weighs 36,000,000 sextillion tons." — Newspaper filler. It seems even heavier when you carry it around on your shoulders. — Kingston Whig-Standard.

Irish radio announcer has been fired because he sounds as if he had an English accent. Dublin is proud of its reputation of the purest English being spoken there, and doesn't want it adulterated by any imported accents from across the Irish Sea. — Windsor Daily Star.

Police at the town of Bois-le-Roi near Fontainebleau were confronted with a rash of "U.S. Go Home" signs which began appearing on the village walls—all a few feet from the ground. It could have been a Communist midget, but it turned out to be the work of three young children of American Air Force officers stationed at Fontainebleau. They think that going home is a good idea. — New York Herald-Tribune

Figaro, the well-known Paris newspaper, published a despatch from London recounting the exploit of a British colon who had cast a fishing line into the Thames from the roof of the Savoy Hotel, a distance of 315 feet. The French newspaper points out this is far from a record even in England. It quotes the following figures. Brussels, 1952: a fisherman cast a line carrying a weight of half an ounce a distance of 410 feet. London, 1950: a weight of just under an ounce was cast a distance of 443 feet. Paris, 1950: a line with 2.46 ounces was cast 512 feet. Boulogne-sur-Mer, 1950: four ounces was cast 633 feet. — Foire de Paris.

For years Mark Twain has been credited with saying that "everybody talks about the weather but no one does anything about it." But he didn't say it. It was written by a dripping editorial writer on the Hartford Courant in 1890.

What Mark Twain did say (in 1876), was: "There is a stupendous variety about New England weather that compels the stranger's admiration—and regret. . . . In the spring I have counted 136 different kinds of weather inside of 24

By pinning at our state; And, even should misfortunes come I, here what sit, hae met w' some. An's thanks fu' them yet. They gie the wit of age to youth; They let us ken oursel; They make us see the naked truth. The real gold and ill; Tho' losses, and crosses, Be leaved right soverly; There's w' they'll get there; Ye'll find nae other where.

—Robert Burns.

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