

Great Possibilities

The opening yesterday of Prince Edward Island's first frosted food plant for farm products may well mark a new chapter in agricultural achievement in this garden Province. There is no question as to the marked trend in recent years in favor of processed foods or of the demand for our tasty Island fruits and vegetables if they can be handled in sufficient quantity in this manner. The new plant, financed by the Provincial Government and operated by Heeneys Frosted Foods, Ltd., of La-Prairie, Quebec, is the most modern of its kind in Canada and is capable of a large and varied output. Those who were privileged to inspect the plant yesterday were impressed by the magnificent equipment and the attention which has been given to every detail of cleanliness, speed and efficiency in the production processes.

Mr. Heeneys paid deserved tribute to the leadership given by Premier Matheson and Hon. Mr. Cullen, Provincial Minister of Agriculture, in promoting this industry and to their enthusiasm and cooperation at all times. It will be recalled that the late Mr. H.K.S. Hemming was an early advocate of this movement and that successive political leaders—notably the late Premier Jones—showed keen interest in its possibilities. Our boards of trade and farm organizations have endorsed it from time to time. This does not mean in any way detract from the credit due to the present Government for its enterprise; it merely points up the fact that the scheme has been a long time maturing, and that there is practically unanimous feeling that it is ideally suited to this Province, and will be of great and lasting advantage to our producers. In this view we fully concur, looking forward to the day when our Island frosted foods will be as famous throughout the continent as our seed potatoes have been for many years, with the added advantage of being free from the disastrous price fluctuations which have plagued the latter industry.

"Imprudence"

The controversy across the border relating to the acceptance of expensive gifts from a wealthy industrialist, who had been having difficulties with some Federal agency, by Sherman Adams, top-ranking assistant to President Eisenhower, makes interesting, if not exactly edifying, reading. While most critics—apart, of course, from Democratic politicians, who are having a field day—appear to agree that Mr. Adams' chief fault was "imprudence", there is a demand all across the nation for his resignation, on the ground that his usefulness in his present post has come to an end.

Mr. Adams is not the first high American official to take gifts from people who thought or hoped that a word in their favour from someone close to the President might help them out of a difficulty. In the Truman administration it was, reportedly, quite a common practice—although Mr. Truman himself was never involved—and probably in other administrations, too. What makes Mr. Adams' venture into imprudence particularly newsworthy is that in the election campaign of 1952, when Mr. Eisenhower was first elected, the Republicans promised, if elected, to put a stop to it once and for all; and Mr. Adams was among those who professed to be much alarmed over what they called "corruption" in high places. Moreover, Mr. Adams is reputed to be a man of high moral stature.

In Britain, this sort of thing is virtually unknown. At least, it is never reported. Whether that means that British political morality is higher than that of the Americans or whether it signifies a better social climate generally is, of course, a matter of opinion. But, certainly, "imprudence" in British Government circles, especially where transfer of money is concerned, is considered just as serious a matter as corruption.

What the situation is like in Canada, there is no obvious way of telling. Outright "bribery and corrup-

tion" in official and semi-official circles appears to be infrequent. But even if gifts were received for "favours received", ten chances to one the moral breach would be hard to detect. There seems to be no precise way in our parliamentary system to uncover malfeasance—unless, of course, it happened to be on a very large scale, in which case it would come to the attention of police authorities. For petty irregularities there appears to be little or no chance of discovery. In the States, the system of standing Congressional Committees, whatever its faults may be, does keep watch over such irregularities involving the executive branch of Government. It may be a little less wary respecting the Congress itself.

Academic Freedom

Teachers everywhere have their problems not directly connected with their academic work. What with school boards, trustees, parent-teachers' organizations, home and school organizations and scores of individuals who are sure that they know more than the teacher about how to manage a school, teaching is a complicated chore these days. There must be times when some of our older teachers look back with happy remembrance to the day when they were really in charge of their schools.

But, however difficult the work may be, Canadian teachers in general can at least stand up for essential human rights—except, occasionally, when their own rights are in jeopardy. Not so in the Southern United States. Take the case of Alan Goodsaid, a seventh grade teacher in Bladensburg, Md., for example. One day when talking to his students about current affairs—as every good teacher does occasionally—he happened to say that "brutality to Negroes in Georgia almost makes me ashamed of the human race". Following an investigation into the alleged slander of Americans—for, of course, in the Southern States the term "human race" is just another name for white Southerners—Mr. Goodsaid was fired. "We cannot accept that kind of teaching" said the Superintendent of Schools.

So, the next time that one of our teachers is troubled by bureaucratic pressure on his (or her) freedom of action, we suggest that he (or she) ponder on how much more difficult it would be to retain one's self-respect in a classroom in the "Deep South".

EDITORIAL NOTES

No child under 12 years of age should ever be permitted to ride on a tractor, either in the field or on the highway, let alone drive one. Yet, it is not at all unusual to see boys of 9 and 10—and even girls—operating them, sometimes attended by an adult, often alone.

If the idea of a group of British aviation experts comes to reality, we shall see a remarkable aircraft in the skies. They propose to design a dart-shaped plane capable of 1,700 miles per hour. It would be powered by 68 jet engines, of which 56 would be mounted vertically for helicopter-style take-offs and landings.

"Somewhere in Beersheba tonight", says the Christian Science Monitor, "a tourist may still have a red face. We refer to the American woman who asked a desert sheik to pose for a photograph, and after he courteously obliged, pressed an Israeli pound note (about 50 cents) into his hand. She may not have known he was a sheik, but he did, and before walking away in royal dudgeon he threw several ten-pound notes at her feet."

Duff Robin the new Premier of Manitoba, says he plans to call a meeting of the Legislature "sometime in the fall" to implement his election promises. That arrangement will give him at least three months in office before he is forced to seek a new mandate. It is almost certain that just as soon as the Legislature opens the Government will fall on a non-confidence motion. The temptation for the Liberals and C.C.F. will be too great to resist.

When Princess Margaret visits British Columbia next month she will probably see some of the permanent projects under way there as part of the centenary celebrations. But one memorial that won't endure is described in the Book of Knowledge Annual. It is a 2 1/2-ton fruit-cake started in 1956 by a baker in Nanaimo. The city is putting it into a glass house, so that as many people as possible can admire it before enjoying a piece.



TRYING HIM AT HIS OWN GAME

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 POTATO INDUSTRY

Sir—May I have this opportunity through your press to speak a word along with my friend Mr. Ramsay on the potato question as it is today and how it was in our time of over forty years.

I am also going to present the two sides of its rewards and disappointments ending up with pure eyed convictions in favor of a Marketing Board as Mr. Ramsay says, beginning in Ontario and ending on good old P.E.I. I confess here I did not vote for the last Board, because to me it was too silly to think that a local board in Charlottetown could regulate the price of potatoes in Toronto or Montreal. In fact, I am ashamed of its set-up and I told Mr. MacDonald so too.

No, I shall criticize to a small extent Mr. Ramsay's quotation of all the millions we lost or are going to lose on last year's crop. Last year was about the average price for our spuds. Mr. Ramsay and I have a neighbour that purchased a farm for \$2,000 and paid for it in 1958 on last year's potato crop, a mighty good piece of business; also my own income from 3 1/2 acres was \$1,600, one of the best years in forty. I sold my spuds or most of them at \$2.00 a bag. Why, twenty-five years ago I sold to the best Co-op organization that ever existed in P.E.I. 965 bushels of certified cobbles for \$55.00 and waited six months for the cheque. This is part of the reason I voted against a local Co-op or Selling Agency two years ago.

When Mr. Boulter of the Potato Growers Association couldn't get a price always for our crop, I claimed Mr. MacDonald in Charlottetown couldn't either; but a different office also couldn't do the impossible. You will pardon me for referring to the past. It makes my letter very long, but surely growing spuds on Spud Island for 45 years my experience should be worth something.

Now what is our case today? I find many of the sickest farmers on earth selling their crop for 43 cents a 75 lb. bag. Chief reasons: many, not all, of these spuds could have gone to the market at \$2.00 a sack. But we must remember we farmers are gamblers just as much in spirit as the big potato dealers. Remember, my friends, that is the difference between Capitalism and Communism. Russia doesn't allow gambling in food stuffs. We in America do. What of it? Shall we continue to accept 50 cents a bag today for potatoes and perhaps \$4.00 in thirty days or so? This is Capitalism in perfection.

Personally I believe in a C.C.F. policy which teaches a controlled economy. Do we want it? Do we realize that the Western Wheat Pool that Mr. Ramsay speaks so highly for is chiefly made up in Canada's chief wheat province, Saskatchewan, the C.C.F. stronghold. Nevertheless both the Liberals and now the Conservatives, have bowed their knees to Socialism. In other words to the demands and needs of our people, and rightly so.

Now, Sir, what is the main trouble among our potato growers? Here it is as I see it. The average price is about 30 cents per 75 lb. bag, too low. And what makes it bad? The small grower on the small farm nearly always has to sell at the lowest price. He it is that contracts for his fertilizer and it seems that this number of farmers is increasing so much that the price of potatoes is already set for this fall. It seems to me the growers are getting poorer and poorer, thus contracting more and more. Then when the price rises during the winter, the small grower is sold out.

Therefore our best solution is a Canada-wide one, beginning with Ontario; a complete Marketing Board under the Provincial Marketing Board Act or Federal

OTTAWA REPORT

Serious Trade Problems

By Patrick Nicholson
Special Correspondent For The Guardian

OTTAWA — It would be conforming to tradition to discuss the Budget in this space today, the Budget rightly being considered the most important single event of the routine political year.

But there is a matter of far greater importance to all Canadians today, than the sum of money which we will pay in taxes this year, and the manner in which the Diefenbaker Government will spend that money in 1958. More important is the sum of money which each Canadian will be able to earn not only in 1958 but in all subsequent years, and the related question whether each Canadian will be able to improve his standard of living not only during 1958, but in 1959, 1978 and every other future year.

Thus, more important than this year's Budget, is the broad question of our foreign trade and national prosperity. It is taken for granted that we depend, more than do the people of any other country, upon our foreign trade. One Canadian worker in every four derives his employment directly from our export trade. Without our foreign markets, 1,500,000 Canadians would be thrown out of work. And without booming exports, we would slide downhill into the national poverty of a second Mexico.

WEALTH IN NEW IDEA
This column has long believed that our future economic well-being as well as our national security is inevitably linked with booming international trade. It is a historical fact that the most prosperous society the world has ever known is the U.S.A. Yet that country does not possess resources or power or raw materials to any degree which we do not. What they have, and we lack, is a large population. Their prosperity is based almost exclusively upon their huge domestic market of 170,000,000 people. The consumer demand of that largest free trade area known to the modern world is huge enough to admit of mass production of every kind of article. That in turn permits every luxury — or a reasonable imitation thereof — to be sold at a price so low that it is within the financial reach of every wage-earner.

In contrast, the Western World has been increasingly split into artificially self-contained small markets, divided by trade-proof tariff barriers. This system raises the cost of living and lowers the standard of life within each area, and disastrously weakens

Act: one Central Marketing Board plus Provincial Boards. That's the time we'll send Mr. MacDonald to sell our potatoes. A price plus profit will be put on the product with a monthly raise in price similar to our war policy years.

As to controlling the big boys with his big acres, either Mr. Ramsay's proposal of limited amount per acre of land or I think a tax of ten cents a bushel or more deducted over and above one thousand or so sold would be effective. This money to be used to pay for any surplus potatoes that may never sell, such as this year. And to help out the United States spuds, do what she did with us; limit what she buys from us, then a 75 cent tax for every 100 pounds. Also we could put a quota on her imports, the same as she did on Alberta oil.

As we have 17 million people now—a nation to be proud of—let us feed those people at a price they can pay. Not \$4.00 a bag, neither 50 cents a sack. We must of necessity move quickly and surely, especially for the family farms of which Canada is made up.

I cordially invite criticism or comment on this subject. I am, sir, etc., HARRY PRIDHAM
Alberton, P.E.I.

What Causes Cataracts?

By Herman N. Bundesen, M.D.
I DON'T suppose you ever thought about sunglasses as offering protection from development of cataracts. But it appears they might.

Cataracts you see, can attack the eyes at any age. Some are even present at birth. Yet most do not begin developing until after the age of 50.

WHEAT CATARACT IS
Now a cataract is an opacity of the lens of the eye or of the capsule enclosing the lens. All cataracts do not cause blindness. Some grow rapidly, some slowly. Some don't grow at all and others are absorbed and disappear.

Even when a cataract is a definite threat to sight, surgery can save the eye in many, many cases.

What causes cataracts? Well, next to old age, we believe heat is the most common cause. The lens contain 34.1 per cent protein, the highest of any body organ.

BECOMES OPAQUE
Heat coagulates protein causing it to become opaque. And opaque protein in the lens of the eye constitute a cataract.

The Better Vision Institute points out that the change is similar to that produced in the white of an egg by the heat

NOTES BY THE WAY

Some people complain about spending a dull evening at home, but there are others who look forward to it after a hectic day.—Shrbrooke Daily Record

of cooking. I think that's an excellent explanation. Doctors have found that cataracts develop early, rapidly and frequently in regions of intense light and heat.

Glassblowers, for example, have a high incidence of cataract. So do sheet-metal workers, stokers and others whose occupations expose them to bright light and intense heat.

BEACH GLARE
I don't suppose too many of you fall into any of these classifications, but I'll bet many of you will spend some time on the beaches this summer, especially during a vacation.

And under prolonged exposure to bright sunlight for sure, the infra-red radiation that lurks in the light reflected from bright skies, beaches, water and even roads, is potentially harmful.

Anyone whose eyes are exposed to bright sunlight for long and frequent periods runs some risk that he will be predisposed to early cataract.

SIMPLE PRECAUTIONS
Now there probably will be

People who insist on driving over 60 miles an hour should make it a point to look out for other idiots.—London Free Press

some who will argue this point, but I believe that the mere fact that the possibility of harming the eyes exists is enough to justify simple precautions such as wearing sunglasses.

Good sunglasses, of course, are best. The cheap variety do not properly screen out either the infra-red or the ultraviolet rays.

QUESTION AND ANSWER
A. C.: Does television produce eyestrain?
Answer: No, not unless it is watched for too long a period of time, or an uncorrected eye disorder exists.

OUR YESTERDAYS

(From The Guardian Files)

TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO
(June 26, 1933)

Mr. John A. Stiles, M.A., B.Sc., M. I. M. E., Ottawa, Chief Executive Commissioner of Boy Scouts for Canada, arrived in the province last evening on his official visit and will be here until Monday next. He will visit the various scout organizations on the Island and the proposed camp site at Brudenell today. While there he will also visit the scouts in Montague and those interested in scouting.

The S. S. Gaspesia called at Summerside on Sunday of her regular trip from Montreal. She had twelve passengers and considerable freight. Also in port is the S.S. Ulva from Port Arthur, Ontario, carrying a cargo of flour, discharging 400 tons at Summerside for local markets.

TEN YEARS AGO
(June 26, 1948)

Concerted efforts to obtain an auxiliary auto truck ferry for the Borden-Tormentine service were discussed at a dinner meeting of the Charlottetown Hotel last evening by the Boards of Trade of Charlottetown, Summerside, Craud-Victoria, and Alberton-West-Prince. It was decided to appoint a steering committee of representatives from the four boards to prepare a brief on the subject.

The question of asking for an extension of the lobster fishing season in this province was considered yesterday at a meeting of the Board of Directors of the P. E. I. Fisheries Federation. It was decided that action would be deferred until the matter was brought before a general meeting when the question of season extensions would be further discussed.

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(To be continued)

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AMERICAN DRILL SUNTAN AND LIGHT BLUE JEANS, reg. 4.95 . . . \$2.95

MEN'S TERRY CLOTH LACE NECK T' SHIRTS—Two tone shades—SALE \$2.49

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