

THE GUARDIAN

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"The Strongest Memory is Weaker Than the Weakest Ink" CHARLOTTETOWN TUESDAY, JAN. 30, 1951

New Health Records

The death rate in the general population of Canada in 1950 is estimated at 9.1 per 1,000 or about 1% below the previous low in 1949, reports Dr. Louis I. Dublin, statistician of the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company. Among diseases which dropped to new lows in 1950 were tuberculosis, pneumonia and influenza, communicable diseases of childhood, and appendicitis. In addition, both maternal and infant mortality rates were lower than ever before.

Particularly noteworthy was the record for tuberculosis, the mortality from which among the insured declined about 6% in 1950 on top of the very substantial reduction in the previous year. The 1950 death rate from the disease is barely half of what it was only 10 years ago.

The record for respiratory diseases was also exceptionally good. The death rate from pneumonia and influenza, among the company's policyholders, was about one-third less than in 1949, which itself had established a new low. The reduction in the death rate from appendicitis was equally large. In the last five years alone, the death rate from this condition among company policyholders in Canada has been cut by more than 60%.

The improvement in maternal and infant mortality is especially satisfactory because the Canadian birth rate remained close to the record levels of recent years. Downward trend in infant mortality during the past decade has meant the aggregate saving of tens of thousands of infant lives among Canadian babies born during this period.

Mortality from chronic diseases of the heart, kidneys and arteries were up very slightly last year, but when allowance is made for the increased proportion of older persons in the population this increase is wiped out. The death rates from cancer and diabetes rose but similarly reflecting, in part, the higher number of older persons in the population.

The excellent health conditions prevailing in Canada in 1950 reflect the extraordinary advances in medicine and public health in recent decades as well as the good economic conditions of the past few years. There is every good reason, Dr. Dublin says, to expect continued improvement in Canada's health in 1951.

Mr. Gardiner's Confession

According to a Canadian Press report, Agriculture Minister Gardiner has denied allegations that he or the Federal Government was responsible for the existence of the bilateral contracts as a means of supplying Britain with food. The report goes on to quote the Minister as saying: "We were always against the plan as applied to Canada, and still are, but we carry on under it because no other plan is available."

"Extraordinary," comments the Ottawa Journal, "that it should have taken Mr. Gardiner eight or nine years to decide to make his true feelings, and apparently those of the Government as well, a matter of public knowledge. The food agreements or contracts—mainly for wheat, bacon and cheese—between Canada and the United Kingdom Ministry of Food have been a subject of keen debate yearly since the early days of World War II but this casual mention by Mr. Gardiner is the first hint that he did not favor this method of selling. These contracts between governments were accepted generally by producers in Canada as a necessary evil during the actual war years but in the five years since there has been plenty of opposition and disagreement and many opportunities for both Mr. Gardiner and the Government to make their feelings clear.

"If a firmer stand had been taken by Mr. Gardiner in the first years following the termination of the war both our hog and dairy industries might well be in a healthier position than they are today—better able to meet new demands for production, unnecessary to import dairy products and open our market to U. S. pork. The existence of these agreements between governments (with set prices and subsidies) has had a stifling effect on production, removed initiative and had a tendency to make producers too reliant on government aid.

"Of course if Mr. Gardiner simply meant that these contracts were forced on Canada by the UK Food Ministry as the only condition under which they would do business with Canada he should have said just

EDITORIAL NOTES

Barbara Ann Scott will draw \$2,500 a night for performing at the Ste. Agathe Winter Carnival.

The Labourers Protective Union acted in a statesman-like manner in disciplining members guilty of contravening the rules and regulations of the organization.

The Boy Scouts Movement requires no commendation, it speaks for itself. The modest appeal for \$5,000 to carry on for the next year should meet with a ready and generous response.

Reference in these columns yesterday to the sitting of the Board of Transport Commissioners here in 1947 should have read 1946. The Board sat in July of that year, although its findings were not published until February, 1947.

With an aggressive member representing it, Prince County apparently gets all it asks for from the Federal authorities. The \$42,000 contract for the repair of Summerside breakwater is the latest example.

California fruit growers are disturbed by the competition of Washington-subsidized dried fruit which was shipped to Holland and thence to this country. Our potato growers had also to cope with subsidy-demoralized markets, but that probably belongs to a phase which is about at an end.

If a hotel room costs more today than it did a short while back, and it does (says a Montreal Gazette writer), it's because proprietors expect a freezing of room rates at any time, and are getting in ahead of the ceiling. The same holds true for resorts, which are jacking their rates in anticipation of a freeze.

No case of influenza was imported by a member of Eisenhower's personal staff as suggested in a Press bulletin from Ottawa. A member of the General's staff was taken from the plane with an undisclosed illness, which was described by the medical authorities as nothing contagious; they said definitely it was not influenza.

Now that Mr. Lester Douglas is gone, there seems to be no Government member sufficiently interested to press for the carrying out of the Federal Building scheme. Perhaps after the Probate Court cases have been disposed of it may be different, but meantime the initiative and aggression rests with Mr. McLure, the Opposition member for Queen's.

Franklin D. Roosevelt, wartime President of the United States, born this date 1882. Was an aggressive "New Dealer" and led the Democratic Party into the adoption of advanced measures of social legislation. He was elected President for a fourth period, thus creating a record. In World War II he allowed the U. S. A. to remain neutral till Japan forced it in on the side of the Allies by bombarding Pearl Harbour while her plenipotentiaries were conferring with the powers-that-be at Washington.

Notwithstanding the fact that Sudbury Town Council possessed the power to ban circus performances, midways and side shows, it decided to take a plebiscite of the electorate on the subject with the result that the "antis" carried the day. This question has always been a controversial one in municipal circles, with the "antis" pointing to the amount of money these travelling shows take out of a community, and the "pros" pointing to the money they make for service clubs, etc. There probably was more justification for circuses and midways a generation ago, says Sudbury News, when local entertainment was limited to a square dance or a box social.

It will be a great pity if nothing results from the admirable suggestion thrown out by Sir Evelyn Wrench in "The Times", says "The Spectator", that "as some recognition of the immense generosity of the American people in providing the Marshall Aid with which we are now happily able to dispense, this country should present to the United States one of the four original copies of Magna Carta still in existence. There is something really imaginative here. Magna Carta, after all, belongs in a sense to the Anglo-Saxon element in these islands, for it goes back far beyond the point at which the great current of Anglo-Saxon history divided into two streams. Magna Carta was not quite the bulwark of democratic liberties that it is sometimes supposed to be, but it is a unique landmark in the history of Western civilisation. The presentation of a copy of the historic document to the Library of Congress would give as much satisfaction to the donors as it undoubtedly would to the recipients."

WITH THE CUTTING OF PULP WOOD BOOMING AGAIN ON THE ISLAND. TO-DAY ONE WOULD FIND OTHER FORCES. MAYBE ANOTHER LARRY GORMAN WILL ARISE. AS FOR GRIEVANCES. AND (PERISH THE THOUGHT) HE MIGHT HAVE TO FIND HIS OUTLET. NOW THEY ARE ANTICIPATED... IN SINGING COMMERCIALS!

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.

NEW SUMMERSIDE WELL

Sir,—I wish to correct an erroneous report appearing in The Pioneeer of January 23 concerning the amount of water capable of being pumped from the new well on the top of the hill, near the standpipe. The correct amount should have read 100 imperial gallons per minute or approximately 144,000 imperial gallons per day from a well drilled 12 inches to the 70 foot level and 10 inches for the balance of the 600 feet, which is considered by the inspecting engineer to be a very small amount of water for the size of the well. I wish also to correct the statement concerning the well now being drilled on Harvard Street, as saying that the work is being done by the Water and Sewerage Commission. The work is being done by the Trask Well Company and I opposed the contract being given without tenders being called; and I opposed the size of the bore which is to be 12 inches, my contention being that a six inch bore should be put down first until the amount of water is determined, and if an unlimited supply is found the test hole then could be enlarged.

I am, Sir, etc. CARL DELANEY Chairman of the Water and Sewerage Commission of the Town of Summerside, P.E.I.

NEWFOUNDLAND MARKET

Sir,—I wish to further impress upon our public spirited citizens a few things our Government should do to help out industry on the Island, but their application of good intentions smacks too much of politics and "bigger interests" welfare, especially in the meat packing house business. If the truth were known I would say that Labor was kicked and the farmers badly fooled to the best advantage of the politicians during the last meat packing house strike on the Island; and I believe that those who might be in doubt will understand better when my letters are finished. Two years ago in March while I was talking to Premier Jones one day, he told me that if I wanted to get some financial aid from the Government to help get a small killing plant started, he would give it to me, but not before two months. When the two months were up in May I paid him a visit and when asked about the loan—he simply said, "What loan? You never speaking to me about money." I was not alone when he promised the money to me and not alone when he said we never asked for it. It took me nearly a year to find out why he forgot, and I will discuss that later.

Now the only ground which the Premier promised to loan the money to me on was "that I must not allow any Newfoundland to invest in the plant." I argued against this move, claiming it was poor policy to do business that way, because with their interest in the plant, and some of their money, one has a much better hold on the market. My argument did not hold with him, and I gave way to older judgment. Now I figured out myself that when the Premier wanted me to abandon the idea of investment from Newfoundland he was only trying to get me out on a limb and be more vulnerable for attack from "bigger interests" by not having the market better secured. It was at this time that the Government of P.E.I. saw fit to purchase the Eskimo boat for export trading to Newfoundland, and before June of that year she proudly undered the Charlottetown harbor undered the streamers and banners—and our honorable members of the Government, on that wonderful afternoon, had their pictures

The Age-Old Story Be not deceived; God is not mocked; for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap.

Employment bureaus are nothing new, as is indicated in the following item from The Islander newspaper of May 1, 1948: "At a meeting held last evening of the Farmers' Club, the president, Dr. Jenkins, in the chair, it was decided to establish, in connection with the Club, a Servants' Registry, where masters can, for 1s. 6d., enter their names and addresses, together with other particulars they may deem necessary. Servants in want of employment will, on payment of 9d., have a similar privilege. Members of the Club will hire none who cannot produce satisfactory references, and a written discharge from last employer."

Man's Life Man's life is well compared to a feast, Furnished with choice of all variety: To it comes Time; and as a bidden guest He sets him down, in pomp and majesty; The three-fold age of man, the waiters be; Then with an earthen volder (made of clay) Comes Death, and takes the table clean away.

difference? I am not accusing anyone of doing this, but I still maintain it can be done, and no one is the wiser, and a few extra cents profit is made. Mr. Shaw concludes with the statement: "With the cost of living on the increase there should be a more careful scrutiny of all purchases made whether it is fruit, eggs, or bread, and consumers should frown on any attempt to hoist prices whether it be by design, unfair advantage, or monopoly, and the latter should be definitely cracked on the head before it gets under way. I agree with Mr. Shaw, but who is going to do the "cracking"? It is impossible for the farmer, as he has to take the price the grading station offers him. Then in the grading station operator has to accept the price the wholesalers offer him. There is nothing he can do about it. According to the report given, the wholesalers are only making a profit of 2 cents; it is impossible for them to do anything. The only ones who can do anything are those in Mr. Shaw's Department, and the consumer. Lower this excess spread between the wholesale price to retail, and give the farmer more for his eggs, and give the egg stations 6 cents to operate on instead of 5.

This does not go on alone in Charlottetown, but in every city in Canada. It is impossible for producers to make a profit during the months of January, February and March and part of April, especially during the cold weather when production is lower than in midsummer, as it takes more feed to get the hens going. Every extra cent helps and encourages the industry.

The poultry industry has helped the farmers on the Island in the past years, and every encouragement should be given to them to keep at it. Unreasonable price spread such as we have been reading and hearing about will sow seeds of discontent and damage the poultry business to such an extent that it will be hard to bring it back to where it was in 1945 and '46. Look back to last winter, a year ago in January when the price of eggs dropped to 72 cents to the farmer. How many flocks throughout the country were slaughtered? Ten years of good work destroyed in a single week?

I am, Sir, etc. REGD STATION P. 2. Bloomfield Station, P. E. I.

THE EGG SITUATION

Sir,—With your kind permission I would like to take up a little more of the valuable space in your Forum column, to devote to the egg situation. Since Tuesday, January 16th, up until Friday the 26th I have listened regularly to a certain broadcast, and have noticed any reduction in the price spread on the retail prices of eggs. The paying price to farmers is up a bit as well as the prices quoted by the wholesalers, which is very encouraging to the producer; but they are not up enough in comparison with the price the consumer has to pay. Reading W. E. Shaw's weekly market report in your paper the 26th, he states that on Jan. 4th consumers were paying as high as 59c for Grade A Large, and grading station in some cases were 35c. On that date we were paying 40c for Grade A Large, and if I remember correctly Charlottetown dealers were offering the grading stations 40 or 42 cents delivered in Charlottetown. I agree with Mr. Shaw, there is too much spread between the price the producer receives and the price the consumer has to pay.

Another item of interest in Mr. Shaw's report is this: "We have also had some complaints that carton packed eggs have not been up to grade, these eggs are the light price eggs on the market. If the grade is not right, inspection staff should be notified for a check up." Eggs packed in 1 doz. cartons should have the name of the grading station which packed them on their cartons and should be sealed with a tape with name and number on it. Anyone can buy cartons, then buy a couple of cases of A. Large eggs and a case of B's, mix them up and retail them all for A. Large. Who is going to know the

Old Charlottetown (And P. E. I.)

SERVANTS' REGISTRY

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The Poet's Corner

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OTTAWA, Jan. 29.—(CP)—A Public Works Department spokesman said today the Department is planning to lay off about 400 or 500 of its 10,000-member staff across the country in line with the Government's economy drive.

Notes By The Way

"Win our essay contest, and be a millionaire in New York for the week!" an ad. advises. Not long enough; we'd learn to like it in a week, and want it to be permanent. —Ottawa Citizen.

The head of the house can be heard just about now predicting how much fuel the heating system is going to use between now and June 1st. — St. Mary's Journal-Artisan.

Is it really that pupils in our schools these days don't want to learn to spell, or is it that the teachers with their heads full of the "modern" in educational styles will not impose the discipline inherent in teaching pupils how to spell? The other day we got a letter, written we take it by a junior stenographer stating that "in dew course" a certain report would be available. This runs right through public, high and university classes these days. We've seen letters and articles written by university graduates which would make the hair of a public school 12-year-old curl in the matter of spelling. If dictionaries are worth printing, then spelling still has a place in our educational system. If it has a place schools teach it. A bit of the discipline which is a requirement of spelling correctly would do some good, we verily believe, and "in dew course" might lower blood pressures of those who learned to spell when they went to school. —Lethbridge Herald.

A weekly pay rise of \$4.50 for 120,000 city employees earning less than \$7,500 a year does not do justice to their needs and does not constitute an adequate solution. This is the first general pay rise since July 1, 1948, when a \$250 cost-of-living bonus became effective. The fact that 120,000 times \$250, the new bonus proposed to the Board of Estimate, adds up to \$30,000,000 a year does not make the lot of the individual underpaid employe a whit easier. He is not to blame for the fact that this is a city of nearly 8,000,000 population in which budget and tax figures reach astronomical proportions. All he knows is the size of his take-home pay and the present frightening cost of what he buys at the store to support his family. We believe that the money can be found for a more generous cost-of-living bonus, and that it should be found. —New York Times.

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