

THE GUARDIAN

Authorized as Second Class Mail Post Office Department, Ottawa. The Island Guardian Publishing Co. Editor and Managing Director, Ian A. Burnett, Associate Editor, Frank Walker. CIRCULATION "Covers Prince Edward Island like the dew" "The strongest memory is weaker than the weakest ink" CHARLOTTETOWN SATURDAY, OCT. 31, 1953

Hallowe'en

The observance of Hallowe'en has taken many strange turns through the years. It is probably the one occasion when the spirit of the skeleton at the feast is given full play in this country. The stages by which special services for the dead gave place to tales of the activity of spirits and these in turn to the playing of tricks which could be attributed to mischievous spirits might make a fascinating study but today we are faced with a condition, not a theory.

The condition is that youngsters and others not so young expect to enjoy themselves on Hallowe'en by disguising themselves and joining their fellows in a night of frolic. All too often a lack of imagination causes the "fun" to turn in the direction of vandalism. Fortunately, however, parents and others are generally prepared to provide means of playing games and feasting. The Kinsmen are holding their usual great parties for the youngsters and dances and other amusements are available for older groups.

As usual the police will be on the lookout for any who mistake vandalism for good-natured fun and the Attorney-General has made it clear that damage to property will bring retribution. The warning is necessary because there are always the minority who either lack an appreciation of what constitutes fun or who are easily led by their fellows into foolish behaviour. For them the only answer is police action and the courts.

Miracle Drugs And Seafood

It was little thought when such modern drugs as aureomycin and terramycin were introduced that they would some day improve the quality of the seafood served from one corner of a continent to the other. Recent investigation, however, has proved that these antibiotics, used in the form of ice flakes, provide a very superior method of preserving fish.

Dr. H. L. A. Tarr, American bacteriologist and authority on the biochemistry of fish, J. Boyd and H. M. Bissett made these discoveries and also experimented with other promising methods of utilizing the antibiotics in the preservation of meat and fish.

Preservation is, of course, the prime difficulty of marketing sea food on a large scale. In recent years there have been notable advances made which have enabled fish to be placed on the housewife's table many hundreds of miles from the seaboard, sometimes after being brought long distances from the fishing grounds. This further development promises to greatly increase the efficiency of preserving methods and will make the handling of foods attractive to far more businessmen and their consumption welcomed by families everywhere.

The sea provides the greatest reservoir of potential food supplies on earth. As the population increases it will become more and more important for obviously even present low standards of nutrition cannot be maintained without its aid.

Attempted Settlement

The story of the creation of the Baronets of Nova Scotia before 1638 is fairly familiar. Not so well known, however, is the fact that some two hundred years later an ambitious scheme was undertaken to revive the objects of the order. The story is told in the Weekly Scotsman in connection with the recent visit of Premier Angus L. Macdonald.

A bad harvest in the Highlands in 1855 had led to widespread distress and one Richard Brown took up the claim of the various orders of baronets to something more substantial than fancy styles, insignias, and coat-of-arms. The British-American Association for Emigration and Colonisation was formed with the two-fold objective of promoting emigration and establishing the rights and managing the properties of the baronets who should join it.

This was to be achieved "by a transfer of the surplus population of the United Kingdom upon a national scale, and by an infusion of capital into them as shall lead to an immediate and wide development of their inexhaustible resources." The Duke of Argyll was made president and Sir Allan Macnab Chief Commissioner in Canada. Contracts were entered into for 443,594 acres of land in Prince Edward Island and Canada East. In October, 1842, the good ship Barbadoes lay in the Thames ready to

sail with 20 men, 12 women, 16 children and a crew of 14.

She never reached the promised land, for complaints were made to the Lord Mayor of London which led him to condemn the enterprise and the Colonial Secretary, Lord Stanley, suspended proceedings for the revival of the territorial claims of the baronets. Later he described the scheme as "a bubble from the commencement".

In 1848, after charges and counter-charges, lawsuits and other activity, the Government was asked to make a consolidated grant of 2,500,000 acres of vacant land in New Brunswick in lieu of all territorial claims. A petition of right and an address to the Queen were agreed upon in the following year, but no practical result was obtained. That, to all intents and purposes, was the end of the scheme.

There has been considerable Scottish immigration to this country but the baronets of Nova Scotia, although they retain the name and the prefix "Sir", had no part in actual colonisation.

House Of Tomorrow

That architecture, as far as it applies to homes for people of average means, is one of the neglected arts in this country was one of the findings of the Massey commission on arts. That is, perhaps, too sweeping an indictment in a country in which housing design is reasonably well adapted to varying conditions of climate, availability of materials and living habits of a decidedly varied population.

It is true that custom and sometimes antiquated building laws play a larger part in determining construction than does the mind of the architect and in the Maritimes in particular the average home is constructed as to an immutable plan based on the principle that square rooms should be fitted into a square house, with a roof sufficiently pointed to make the whole proof against the weather.

A very good purpose should be served by a recently announced international competition, supervised by McGill, for a practical design for a Canadian house suitable for a young Canadian family of five—the parents and three children under 15. It is too much to hope that out of it will come a distinctively Canadian house type. But such a type is evolving and this competition should do much to aid its development on desirable lines.

No doubt it will be difficult to select top winners in such a contest for the housing requirements of this country are regional rather than national. It may well be that it will be found necessary to give more prominence to the "honorary mention" runners-up than to the overall winners.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Hallowmas Eve; Hallowe'en.

Tomorrow, the 22nd Sunday after Trinity, All Saints.

A number of questions and answers on pool marketing of potatoes is contained in this issue. They will prove interesting and perhaps clarify the procedure and regulations to be followed.

The week-long Maritime Winter Fair is under way at Amherst. Islanders are taking a great interest in the Fair and will no doubt make a good showing in potatoes, livestock and square dancing.

Today is Boy Scout Apple Day. The youngsters are out to help raise the funds to keep their own organization going and expanding. They are doing their part. It is up to the public to see that their efforts are successful.

That poliomyelitis will become a disease of the past within ten years is the highly cheering prediction of a speaker at a medical convention in southern Ontario. A vaccine discovered in Pittsburgh and the culture of polio virus in Toronto, he claims, will spell the end of that dread disease.

The Manitoba flood relief fund has turned over \$1,485,511 to the newly formed Canadian disaster relief fund. The money was the residue of \$9,244,224 raised in 1950 to help victims of the Red River Valley flood. This generous act will be appreciated in that this money can be used for disaster relief in any part of Canada.

Cosmo Gordon Lang, English archbishop, was born this date 1864. Son of the principal of Aberdeen University and sometime moderator of the Church of Scotland, he became a law student in London. Social work in the East End drew him to the Church as a vocation and he soon became recognized as one of the great preachers of his day. He was the only Archbishop of York to become Archbishop of Canterbury. The abdication of King Edward VIII made his position extremely difficult. He made a stand for principle in the face of unpopularity.

After All Is Said And Done



PUBLIC FORUM

This column is open to the discussion by correspondents of questions of interest. The Guardian does not necessarily endorse the opinion of its correspondents.

BOY SCOUT APPLE DAY

Sir, — Twenty-six years ago members of the Canadian Horticultural Council and officials of the Boy Scouts Association had an historic meeting. From the discussion which took place, Boy Scout Apple Day had its beginning. The organized street selling of apples by Scouts has proved itself a happy double discovery; a good turn project which creates valuable publicity for Canadian apple growers, and at the same time contributes substantially to local Scouting finances.

An Apple Day is a special kind of tag day. Not only does each purchaser receive a tag, but a choice apple as well. The reason for this is that Scouts are not supposed to beg, but must always give reasonable value for money received. Apple Day in Charlottetown, and in towns and villages throughout P. E. Island, will be held on Saturday, Oct. 31 (Hallowe'en Day). Scouts and Cubs will be out early selling apples on the streets and from door to door. This is the one special day of the year when Scouts themselves work to raise funds for their organization. The funds are earmarked for Camps and Jamborees.

Only Island grown McIntosh apples will be sold. This is the world's finest dessert apple. When a Scout or a Cub approaches you to buy an apple, how much should you pay? This is a matter for you to decide, but I would like to suggest a minimum of ten cents, and as much more as you feel you can afford. Two things must be remembered: the Scout Association must first buy the apples at regular market prices, and then buy tags, cans, pay for advertising, etc., so that each apple costs somewhere in the vicinity of three cents before it is ready for street sale. If a person pays only five cents for an apple, as was formerly the custom, his contribution to the work of the Boy Scout Association is only two cents and you will agree that, according to present money values, this is not a very large contribution for such a worthy organization.

When you contribute to Apple Day on Saturday, you help to promote an Island industry and to provide funds for youth training. Be as generous as you can. I am, Sir, etc., R. C. PARENT Super-tendent Experimental Station.

The Poet's Corner

THE OLD MARE Gray despair Was on the old mare, Grass turned bitter, Sky a-glare, And gnats like thoughts, And thoughts like gnats, Everywhere.

Her underlip Hung pendulous wide, Her ears twitched back, Her dusty hide Heaved with her heavy breathing And her eyes rolled ominously To one side.

The mule colt lay In trampled grass, Slick-tailed, long-eared, Bespeaking the ass Carried so long in her body, Born in travail and sweat—Allen, alas.

But staggering To unsteady feet The mule colt fumbled An unknown test; And the old mare relaxes and sighs, Finding any motherhood Most sweet.

—Elizabeth Coatsworth.

The Age Old Story

On this side Jordan, in the land of Moab began Moses to declare this law, saying, The Lord our God spake unto us in Horeb, saying, Ye have dwelt long enough in this mount . . . go in and possess the land which the Lord swore unto your fathers, Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, to give unto them and to their seed after them.

Hallowe'en Imagery Stems From Ancient Pagan Rites

(National Geographic News)

Hallowe'en — autumn's annual vigil against spooks and evil spirits — owes much of its colorful costuming and imagery to Europe's ancient Celts and Romans. To the Druids, members of a Celtic religious order in France, England, and Ireland, can be attributed most of Hallowe'en's superstitions and beliefs, says the National Geographic Society. Even its traditional colors — gold and black — stem from this strange sect.

October 31 marked both the year's and summer's end for the Druids. "Gathering" before great bonfires, they mourned the passing of the golden Sun God and sought to appease his dark conqueror, Samhain, Lord of the Dead. On Hallowe'en night — the eve for the Lord of Death supposedly gathered the souls of all those who had been confined to the bodies of animals upon death and sent them on to their final resting place. The Druids believed that the dead atoned for their sins by residing in animal bodies.

Black cats were considered especially desirable abodes. In later centuries, however, they were thought to embody only evil witches. Celts of Scotland and Ireland gathered on windy hilltops around fires built to ward off ghosts that hovered in the shadows. Human sacrifices were offered in grisly rituals. In strange straw cages built in the shape of giants or animals, criminals of the tribe were confined. The cages were set a-fire. Roman conquerors later outlawed the practices.

Masks, a prime part of every American youngster's Hallowe'en costume, have been associated with man's dealings with the spirits, both friendly and malevolent, since Egyptian times. The jack-o'-lantern, however, has a double meaning. It makes a weird and shadow-casting spook, but also it is carved from a symbol of the fruitful harvest which has been connected with Hallowe'en since the Roman feasts to Pomona goddess of fruits and seeds. The Romans honored Pomona with nuts and apples, chief tokens of their winter store. Today these same delicacies are covered by "trick or treat" pranks.

A dozen centuries ago Christian church leaders in Europe sought to supplant the paganism of ancient autumn festivals with more enlightened customs. "November 1 was established as All Saints' or Allhallow's Day. The night preceding this festival of worship — Allhallow's Eve — provided the name of the popular but unofficial October 31 holiday — Hallowe'en. had three hies just below where the plough ran, and young Macdonald stepped on the snakes before he noticed them. The sight of so many snakes' heads sticking up out of the holes was too much for him, and he loudly called on Kelly for assistance. Kelly, thinking there was something wrong, had the presence of mind to take the hoe, with which he was working at the time, with him, and after examining the snakes some time, began operations and quickly despatched them." —King's County Advertiser, Dec. 11, 1879.

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The Passing Scene

By Observer CONCERNING ANTAGONIST - CORRELATIVES

In a world that had no trouble of pain or disarray of any kind (if such a world can be imagined) the outward marks of good conduct would be visible everywhere, but there would be no moral goodness. Morality implies freedom of choice and, of course, in a static society such as a trouble-free and painless world would indicate there would be no choosing to do. This brings up a subject which is led to the conclusion that life as we know it has much to do with "Antagonist - Correlatives". At first glance the combination does not seem to make sense. Correlatives are words or things which have mutual relationships. "Either" and "Or" are good examples in words; "Heat" and "Warmth" would do for examples in things.

And yet no further thought one is led to the conclusion that life as we know it has much to do with "Antagonist - Correlatives". Apparently there must be some contrast to every sensation of pleasure if pleasure is to have any practical meaning or, indeed, any existence. The enjoyment of good food and drink would be unthinkable in the absence of hunger and thirst. The negative thing called darkness is essential to the positive thing called light. Bright sunshine can be properly appreciated only in a climate where it may rain for days at a time. If there were no strong winds, what we call calm weather would go unheeded. Cold, we are told, is the absence of heat. Its possibility is also necessary to the warmth that one feels before an open fire. In fact the word "warmth" is in common usage only in temperate zones. It is seldom heard in the tropics for the simple reason that there it has little meaning. There is nothing to give it contrast value.

We often hear it said that only those who have been obliged to endure sickness appreciate good health. The saying is true, for only those who have known sickness are in a position to know what good health really means. The permanently healthy have no real understanding of it. We are told that at sea level every square inch of our bodies is subject to approximately fifteen pounds of atmospheric pressure. That adds up to quite a heavy burden but, normally, we are totally unconscious of it. As soon, however, as we leave the normal level, the gradual decrease in pressure makes us uncomfortable. So it means that the saying "It all depends on what you are used to" has definite scientific foundation. Colour is something else that is deeply involved in this law, assuming of course that it is a law. If there were no drab colours the bright ones would be meaningless. And if everything in the world were of one hue that would be the same as none at all. For seeing is a state of mind, and one state of mind needs another unlike it to make it meaningful.

So, with hearing, if ever since we were born, a loud incessant clanging had sounded in our ears unbroken by any softer sound, the effect on our minds would be the same as we now experience by absolute silence. It is the contrast between one sound and another—the high and low, the shrill and the soft—that gives reality to any of them. People who live in quiet surroundings are apt to pity the person who ever since his birth has been obliged to live on a noisy corner in a large city. Actually, a person in a situation like that is not aware of incessant noise. Only when he finds himself in the noiseless country, if, does the former clatter begin to work on his consciousness and often, strangely, the contrast gives rise to a touch of nostalgia. The youngsters who were sent during the air raids were oppressed by the quietness of their new surroundings and wanted to go back. From their point of view the new life was abnormal and, therefore, uninteresting. The Hebrews who had been taken by force to Babylon "sat down and wept" when they remembered the freedom they had enjoyed at home. It was only when they had tasted the bitterness of bondage that they could appreciate their former blessings.

I was led to these random thoughts by a little item tucked away in a corner of a newspaper which quoted a certain professor of history as saying that "democracy will continue to be battered by various irritants. These help to keep the democratic idea alive." The inference, of course, is that without something to provide contrast, democracy would not function well if, indeed, it could exist at all. I suppose by the same reasoning peace would be under some sort of obligation to war. It is all very confusing and we must hope that in these two important areas of human experience the law (if it be a law of "Antagonist-Correlatives") will somehow be observed. For that, the prospect for permanent peace, in the sense we understand the term, is not good.

PROFESSIONAL CARDS

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