

Summer Time

Like the Three Musketeers who regularly took their station outside their commander's residence at six o'clock in Summer and 8 o'clock in Winter, Summerside town employees will soon be recognizing the changing seasons.

It seems a pity, however, that this Province is heading for thoroughgoing confusion in the matter of time. Summerside's Town Council has not attempted to tamper with clocks as have Charlottetown and Montague and consequently there will not be the confusion in the western part of the Province that can be expected elsewhere.

The action taken by the various municipalities indicates the importance which citizens attach to making the fullest use of the hours of daylight in our all too brief summer. It would be easy to criticize either the Provincial Act, which purports to enforce uniformity, or the municipal authorities, which are attempting to evade the consequences of that statute.

Uniformity of time in a closely-knit community such as this Island is practically an essential. It is absurd to have to continually cope with a variety of times in the course of a day. Legislation passed by the duly elected member from all sections of the Province provides for time to be the same everywhere, Standard Time or Daylight Saving. It is left in the hands of the Lieutenant-Governor-in-Council to determine which should be applicable during any particular period.

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A Dictator's Trousers

When Benito Mussolini was hanged by his enraged and war-crushed countrymen in the public square of Milan approximately nine years ago it was feared in some quarters that the passing of time would bring about a resurgence of the Fascist temper which, in turn, might guarantee the late dictator a niche in the place of national martyrs. This has not come to pass; Communism, a no less heinous conspiracy, has taken the place of Fascism as Italy's most violent disturber of the peace.

Meanwhile the late dictator himself is a long way from martyr status if one may judge from a news report concerning the pair of gray-green trousers the once powerful man was wearing at the time of his execution. For nine years they have been waiting for some one—perhaps a zealous follower or a collector of historical relics—to claim them. Now that it is evident that they are of no sentimental value to any one and of no interest to the historians they are being burned in the Palace of Justice.

Biblical Names Recalled

Bible names echo today in the gunfire along Israel's borders. To most newspaper readers, Wadi Fukin, Khirbet Deir, Nahhalin and Husan may be a confusing jumble of letters with one meaning: friction between Israel and Jordan. But by geography these villages, just a few miles southwest of Jerusalem, are tied to the land of Judaea, once occupied by the tribes of Judah and Benjamin. Their significance is highlighted in a bulletin issued by the National Geographic Society.

For centuries Judaea has been a country of shepherds, their flocks dotting the rugged highlands. It has also been a land of stone-walled vineyards and olive groves and rivulets linked with pink oleanders. It is much the same today. The soil surrounding the modern, strife-torn towns is soil

trod by the great Hebrew prophets. Nearly 2,000 years ago somewhere not far away Mary "went into the hill country with haste, into a city of Juda" to visit her cousin Elizabeth. And near by her son, Jesus, was born, carried on his ministry and was crucified. Skirmishes today have also flared along the rim of the Gaza strip, a narrow extension of Egyptian-occupied land pointing up the Mediterranean coast.

Chief city of the strip is Gaza, often mentioned in the Bible, sometimes as Azazah. Gaza, an early trade center, was the most southerly of the five city-kingsdoms of the Philistines. It served as a base for the Egyptian king Thutmose III in his campaign against Syria around 1480 B.C. In 720 B.C. it was taken by Sargon and in 332 B.C. by Alexander the Great after a five months' siege. It played a prominent part in the Wars of the Maccabees. It knew the soldiers of the Syrians, Romans, Jews, Crusaders, Arabs, and the French under Napoleon in 1799. In 1917 Viscount Allenby forced the evacuation of the Turks there. In the Bible Gaza is famed as the city where "Samson... arose at midnight, and took the doors of the gate of the city, and the two posts, and went away with them, bar and all, and put them upon his shoulders, and carried them up to the top of an hill that is before Hebron (19 miles southwest of Jerusalem)."

EDITORIAL NOTES

School districts are hurrying up their collections and reports in anticipation of the earliest annual meeting date on record and for a long time to come.

According to its president, the Canadian Medical Association will not stand in the way of a national health insurance plan in which premiums are voluntary and financial resources pooled. The profession opposes, however, any scheme which would bring doctors under control of the state "on the basis of civil servants."

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The housewife of the future may well require a freezer of walk-in proportions. Already a Boston bakery is freezing bread to have it fresh for week-ends and holidays. The next step may be to sell frozen bread in bulk, to be thawed out as fresh bread is needed. Fish, meats, fruit and vegetables are already available in that form.

There is a certain redundancy about the National Geographic news bulletin that thanks to a flock of Embden geese, the United States Supreme Court has revived one of its oldest traditions—stocking its courtroom with quill pens. It is a little like saying quill quills. At the same time it is interesting to note that respect for tradition is maintained even if lawyers make their private notes using ball-points.

The House of Commons is setting up a 31-member special veterans' affairs committee to study proposed Government legislation on war service grants and servicemen's benefits. This does not go as far as the Opposition wished, a committee to study any aspects of veterans' legislation, but it indicates that the Commons is prepared to give independent study to the Government's proposals.

Edward Lear, English writer and artist, was born this date 1812. As a young man he was for a time drawing master to Queen Victoria. He early made ornithological drawings in the Zoological Gardens and assisted Gould as draughtsman in his "Birds". His fame, however, rests on his delightful "Book of Nonsense", called by Ruskin the "first in the list of a hundred delectable volumes of contemporary literature." He also wrote "Journal in Greece and Albania", "More Nonsense Rhymes" and other works.

The RCMP plays no favourites. Two officers of the force are reported to have stopped a four-car convoy carrying Defense Minister Claxton and Major General Chris Vokes, Officer Commanding Western Command, from Edmonton to Vegreville, Alberta, because two of the cars did not carry 1954 license plates. The deadline for obtaining new license plates in Alberta was April 10, and as the offence occurred more than two weeks after the deadline had passed there can be no complaint against the police for being too diligent in their duties.



"What's A Million?"

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.

GEORGETOWN FERRY SERVICE Sir.—A suggestion to the leader of the Conservative party, Mr. Bell. Why not buy the motor vessel Montague II and hold her until after the next election, then give her back to the Fifth District, her back to the Fifth District, her back to the Fifth District. His victory would then be assured in the next election. I am, Sir, etc.

DR. BENNETT'S LECTURE

Sir.—By mere chance was made aware of a letter in the April 2nd issue of The Guardian under the name of Professor Bennett of Dalhousie University. In that epistle, Dr. B. accuses me of misrepresenting his attitude towards Dr. Neatby in his lecture here, March 9th. He protests that his attitude toward her was more friendly than hostile. If that be the case, what interpretation would be put on the following remark made by the gentleman who moved the vote of thanks: "There were times when I wished that the redoubtable Neatby had been on the stage to take her own part."

ANOTHER REPLY

Sir.—I just came back to say that my letter that appeared in the paper last week, was headed "The Attorney-General". Perhaps that was not the right thing to do, as The Guardian headed it "Potato Marketing Board." At any rate I hope the Attorney-General answers most of the questions before the plebiscite is held. Mr. MacDonald made some comment on it, and there was one thing he said, that I would doubt but what was true. That was, that New Brunswick had only 26 carloads to the U. S. Some men from the potato-growing area of that Province were over here last week, and they said that the P. E. I. Marketing Board had slaughtered the prices so, in the U. S. that it was no use for them to sell. Then they organized a Marketing Board themselves only to hear that the U. S. would not let any more subsidized potatoes enter in the way they still had most of their potatoes. When the Federal Government gave us help in former times, there was no one taken advantage of, no markets depressed, no one made angry; and the next season business flourished better than ever. When is the railroad going to bring in this one some freight system, as I understand it is not in effect yet? I am, Sir, etc.

MARKETING BOARD DEFENDED

Sir.—From time to time I see letters appearing in your paper, mostly complaining about that monster created with the unanimous support of the Island farmers, known as the P. E. Island Potato Marketing Board. Since that time that institution did the work that the farmers intended it should do, namely, market potatoes. If it had not done so it would have betrayed the potato growers of this Province one hundred per cent. No person knew at that time what methods this board would have to use in order to accomplish this, as the marketing of this Island's potato crop was an entirely new undertaking here; but everybody must

Old Charlottetown and P. E. I.

P. E. I. HOSPITAL OPENED

"The P. E. Island Hospital is now open for the reception of patients. The committee have secured the services of a matron and nurse, who received her training in London, England, and has had some years' experience in an English hospital. The Ladies' Hospital Aid Society most gratefully thank the kind donors for the following gifts towards furnishing: Mrs. John Beer, 2 invalid chairs; Mrs. Dr. Beer, 2 pillows; Mr. Herbert Beer, 1 barrel flour; Mr. H. Brown, half-dozen towels; Miss Cameron, 1 wardrobe; Mrs. Joseph Davidson, Burlington, 2 pillows and \$1.00; Mrs. Fitzgerald, 1 pair blankets; Mrs. Thomas Flager, 4 towels; A Friend, \$10.00; A Friend, 5 yards flannel, 1 feeding cup; Mrs. Higgins, 1 washstand; Miss Higgs, 5 pillow cases. Mrs. Dr. Johnson, 1 soup tureen, 1 child's crib; Miss Macdonnell, 1 iron bedstead; Mrs. E. MacLennan, Eldon, 1 pair blankets; Mrs. Thomas MacNeill, Alberton, \$1.00; Mrs. F. Mayne, 1 easy chair; Mrs. F. E. Moore, 1 invalid chair; Mrs. Morris, 1 bedstead, 1 washstand; Mrs. Offer and Mrs. Younger, 1 doz. pillow cases, half doz. towels; Mr. Paton, 10 yards carpet; Mrs. Pollard, 1 toilet set; Mr. Sterns, 6 yards table linen; Stentford & Taylor, \$5.50; Mrs. John A. Weeks, Alberton, 1 pair blankets."

The Age Old Story

As you have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk ye in him; rooted and built up in him, and established in the faith, as ye have been taught, abounding therein with thanksgiving. I have known at that time that such a business would require changes from our older marketing methods. If there were not to be any changes made from the old method then why did we farmers vote for a marketing board in the first place? There must have been a reason, and the reason to my mind is that the farmers rightly felt that they should market the product of their labor, in whatever way serves the best interest to farmer and consumer. And we thing two hundred and fifty people selling potatoes for the farmers of this country as we have had is just about 249 too many. This has been definitely proven during the past year by our present board. Does it not look as though we farmers have a lot of dead wood in our business, that we could do very well without? Now, all our farmers will have the time from now until the 24th of May to decide which way they want to market their potatoes, whether through a marketing board they helped to create, or without such board that they helped to destroy, and in future their potatoes will be marketed by someone else, for someone else. Then they will be free to sit down within the confines of their own line fences and enjoy their freedom! I am, Sir, etc.

The Poet's Corner

A TERNARY OF LITTLES

(Upon a pipkin of jelly sent to a lady) A little saint best fits a little shrine, A little prop best fits a little vine; A little small cruise best fits my little wine. A little seed best fits a little soil, A little trade best fits a little oil, As my small jar best fits my little oil. A little bin best fits a little bread, A little garland fits a little head, And my small stuff best fits my little shed. A little hearth best fits a little fire, A little chapel fits a little choir, As my small bell best fits my little spire. A little stream best fits a little boat, A little lead best fits a little float, As my small pipe best fits my little note. A little meat best fits a little belly, As sweetly, lady, give me leave to tell ye, This little pipkin fits this little jelly. —Robert Herrick (1591-1633).

Transportation Problem

(Moncton Times) Among the most illustrative comparisons coming to light of late to show the really tight position in which the Canadian railways are operating, is furnished by the annual report of the National Harbours Board of Canada. This document describing the activities of the government agency having the unified direction and control of Canada's main port facilities was tabled in the House of Commons the other day by the Transport Minister. From it we glean that the financial results for 1953 were the best since NHB was established nearly 20 years ago. Its revenues and net surplus placed at \$2,400,000, while its net income surplus, after all charges were met, totalled \$1,801,000. This shows that ratio of net surplus to total revenues was almost 11-2 per cent and net surplus income to total revenues just under 9 per cent. But in marked contrast was the position of the nation's transportation entity, the Canadian National Railways. Last year its gross operating revenues reached a total of \$696,622,451—33 times greater than while its net operating revenue amounted to \$37,573,365 and its surplus \$244,017. Thus the CNR ratio of net to gross revenues was less than 5.5 per cent, while the proportion of surplus to gross revenue was but .35 of one per cent. Then by comparison with the Canadian Pacific Railway picture of operations for 1953, we find that out of gross earnings totalling \$470,517,777 the net earnings amounted to \$28,900,000, while the balance of net income after payments of dividends totalled \$7,609,402. This worked out at a ratio of

NOTES BY THE WAY

After reading the news of the day, the average person is about as tense as an E-string on a hill-billy's fiddle. —Kitchener-Waterloo Record. You have a senseless hodge-podge, and, as a consequence, real estate values are shot to smithereens. —Sydney Post-Record. A publication from the Royal Ontario Museum describes the many varieties of tea and, also, the various sorts of cups or bowls from which peoples of the world drink this beverage. The museum has a display of old Japanese bowls. It mentions green tea, "the pale green tea of China." And this sets our taste buds going. For, in the days of our youth, green tea was commonly used in Ontario. Many families preferred it to black tea. Out through the countryside would go the tea salesman, his wagon equipped with large containers of different types of tea. He would have green tea, black tea, and a mixture. One could buy what one wished. —Windsor Star. —In the eight years since it was established, the Eyebank for Sight Restoration reports that it has received about 4,000 eyes which it delivered to surgeons who needed them to restore sight when corneal grafts were necessary. According to Dr. R. Townley Paton, vice-president of the Eyebank, grafting was successful in only 20 per cent of the cases that came to the surgeon's attention 20 years ago; today success in selected cases is almost 90 per cent. This remarkable showing must be attributed in large part to the Eyebank's system of preserving and transporting eyes. As for the eyes, they are bequeathed to the bank just as if they were property. —New York Times. A recent editorial which sought to make suggestions about ways of conserving water stated that a bath consumes less water than a leisurely shower, and half a tub will do as well as a full one. An interested and expert reader brings to our attention the fact that a normal bath, depending on the size of the tub, consumes twenty-five to thirty gallons, while a shower in which the water wets himself, shuts off the water, soaps up, and then turns on the water again, to rinse consumes only ten gallons. A good point. But we need in mind the usual leisurely shower that invariably consumes all the verses of "The Road to Mandalay" and a good deal more than thirty gallons of water. Since water conservation is the point, we would like to call attention to the fact that a short shower beats even a half-filled tub. —New York Times.

One of the nicest compliments you can pay a man is to send him a letter marked "personal", as it subtly implies he is so important that somebody else ordinarily opens his mail. —Winnipeg Tribune. "The most important moments in a talk are when you're saying nothing. These are the moments when you pause to let your audience digest the point you've just made, or when you deliberately keep people waiting to get them excited about what's coming next. There's nothing to equal properly handled pauses for turning a rather dull talk into one that gets an audience really interested." —Kenneth Hudson on the BBC. In Newfoundland, May is welcomed chiefly because it brings the hope of warm weather a little nearer and gives a special stimulus to the year's trading operations. In one respect, however, it is not like it used to be. No longer is the harbor filled with schooners massed so densely that it was sometimes possible to jump from deck to deck all the way across the stream the Labrador fishery is a thing largely of the past. No schooners come to discharge birch junks by the million and load up with supplies for the Summer voyage. —St. John's News.

Sir — Who started the rumor that the English are cold and distant? There is no truth in it! During a recent two weeks in England, as a teacher on educational leave, I had only warm and friendly relations from taxi drivers, bus conductors, policemen, waitresses, store clerks, guards, and casual passers-by. And I was overwhelmed by the professional courtesies of the class-room teachers, headquarters and British Council. A salvo to the English.—Gratefully yours, Agnes T. Beckwith, Washington, D.C. —Letter in London Observer. Many citizens have a well-defined impression that Sydney has a town planning setup, or should have. There is an impression not in the least illogical that there is no such thing as a bewtixt and between town planning scheme. You either have it or you don't have it. Town planning has to be orderly in order to be consistent. When it becomes inconsistent it ceases to be planning. There is no room in town planning for on-again off-again shemigans. It has to have a design—a pattern that makes sense. Without that

net to gross earnings of 6.1 per cent—the poorest ratio, with two exceptions in the company's history—while the proportion of net income to gross earnings was 1.5 per cent. Crystallized, the pattern works out something like this—a \$21 million operation comes out with \$244 million to the good; a \$696 million operation is, in the final analysis, only productive of \$244,000, and a \$470 million operation provided a final net income of \$7 million. These comparisons tend to substantiate the claims of the railways that the rigid federal restrictions under which they are compelled to operate—in many cases non-paying lines as well as unremunerative classes of traffic—prevent them from deriving a fair and reasonable monetary return from the services they perform. The conditions which continue to bear in on the railways from several sides are definitely not conducive to the maintenance of a healthy transportation industry in Canada.

NEW DELHI (Reuters)—India is buying the cruiser Nigeria from Britain at a cost of 4,900,000 rupees (about \$840,000). Parliament was told. Built in 1940, the Nigeria will be refitted with the latest weapons and other equipment.

MANILA (AP)—President Ramon Magsaysay Sunday ordered relief supplies slow to the south-east Philippines where an off-coast typhoon struck during the week-end. Reports from Cebu city said at least eight had been killed and 90 persons were missing and feared dead. Most were fishermen caught in open waters.

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