

THE GUARDIAN

Authorized as Second Class Mail Post Office Department, Ottawa. The Island Guardian Publishing Co. President and Associate Editor, 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, WEDNESDAY, JAN. 28, 1953

Top-Level Negotiation

The threat of a railway tie-up has failed to be averted by negotiations by the experts and by the vice-presidents of the railways negotiating with the presidents of the international brotherhoods. Now Donald Gordon of the C. N. R. and W. A. Mather of the C. P. R. have joined their negotiating committees and will still be dealing with J. A. Kelly and L. C. Malone, top men in the Brotherhood of Railway Trainmen. It is a cliché to say that an agreement must be reached sooner or later and that the time to reach it is now. There is, however, a profound truth in the obvious. If agreement is delayed the railways and the unions will suffer and Canada will suffer also. To some it will mean loss of money, to others actual hardship. Eventually the railways will operate again on some sort of terms arrived at after bitterness and re-primation. Those terms may just as well be agreed upon now. The negotiators who are now meeting have full power to make and accept proposals. They will be responsible for the conduct of the railways and unions during a strike and the negotiation and carrying out of a settlement. They cannot pass the responsibility to other shoulders and it is to be sincerely hoped that the sense of responsibility will enable them to do now what they must do sometime—reach an agreement.

Footnote To History

Lord Selkirk, who played such an important part in the settlement of the Skye pioneers in this Province in 1803, was even better known for his achievement in settling the Red River district in Rupert's Land. In the latter connection an interesting letter of Selkirk's, written from Montreal to his agent at Red River on March 30, 1816, has been discovered by Mr. William Douglas, of the Manitoba Historical Society. Selkirk wrote that he was anxious the settlers be not scattered but that they be located in a compact village, with each family receiving a holding of about half an acre. Each family would also be allotted farm lands to the extent of eight to ten acres at the nearest possible site. With characteristic vision, the Earl suggested streets of 80 to 100 feet in width and the reserving of a strip 400 to 500 yards wide along the river for a river road, the village to be located behind this strip. One location he proposed was in the vicinity of Winnipeg's present City Hall. Even as he wrote, some of the settlers were probably still in York boats on Lake Winnipeg, fleeing north to the Hudson's Bay Company post at Norway House. Just two weeks before, Fort Douglas had fallen to the North West Company and the strife was to come to a tragic climax in the massacre of Seven Oaks on June 19. In 1817 the Nor'westers were routed from Fort Douglas and Fort William and peace was restored to the colony. Lord Selkirk signed a treaty with the Indians, enabling him to place his settlers on lots on either side of the Red River in the Kildonans. Their main street was still the river, but soon there was to be another settlement and with it the first surveyed street of the Winnipeg-to-be.

Canada's Health

The annual report of the Department of Health, tabled recently in the House of Commons by Health Minister Martin, disclosed that millions of dollars were being spent each year to control some diseases and to find cures for others. Some of the more important findings in the report dealt with poliomyelitis which showed a marked increase in 1951 with a rate of 18.3 per 100,000 compared with 6.6 in 1950. The highest incidence occurred in Ontario, Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island. Thanks to mobile X-ray units and improved treatment, tuberculosis, still one of the leading causes of death in the 15-39 age group, declined ten per cent in 1951 to what is believed to be a new low. Further decline may be expected for 1952 although the figures have yet to be compiled. One rather surprising fact contained in the report concerns Canada's infant mortality rate. While considerable progress has been made in reducing it, it is still higher than that of the United States, the United Kingdom and several other countries. On

the other hand, Canada has a higher birth rate than the United States, the United Kingdom, countries of Western Europe, and Australia. The death rate is low and declining, which is indicative of a young population. There are many areas in Canada which are sparsely settled and which do not yet have adequate public health services, but, in spite of the difficulties involved in serving the medical needs of people in these sections the nation's health record compares favorably with that of other progressive western nations.

Plea For Cheaper Books

Following a recommendation in the Massey Report that "a sales tax should not be applicable to books," the Canadian Library Association has made a strong plea to the Government on this point. "A book in the home is worth two in the library," Rev. Lawrence K. Poupore, Rector of St. Patrick's College in Ottawa, remarks in his supporting statement. The 10 per cent sales tax means prices that often deter readers from buying volumes they would like to have on their own shelves. Some texts and religious works, together with magazines and the "comics", are already exempt. But most reference works and the general run of publications are taxed under a policy that is unfair as well as culturally unwise. French-speaking and English-speaking, the librarians' associations have the backing of many individual libraries, the universities from Newfoundland to British Columbia, the major labor congresses, the associations of authors, doctors, teachers, and school trustees, and many other organizations. Groups of publishers and booksellers joined the delegation that waited on Mr. Abbott.

EDITORIAL NOTES

The annual reports of the Summerside Board of Trade indicate a very busy year indeed for that organization. The large number of Board proposals which have been put into effect indicates that their efforts are far from purposeless.

There are few things more helpless than a ship under reef. Without steam, without a well-disciplined crew, without a completely responsible master, even the largest and most powerful ship is like a whale on dry land.

A guarantee that the car ferry will be kept running was the very proper request by the Summerside Board of Trade addressed to the Minister of Transport. The regular running of the ferry, as provided for in the B. N. A. Act, is on an altogether different basis from rail operations and it would be folly to risk its interruption by failing to draw the attention of all concerned to that difference.

This Province has had its soil survey. Now the Department of Mines and Technical Surveys, at the request of Provincial authorities, is to probe a bit deeper and make a comprehensive geological survey of the Island. It is to be hoped that the survey does not reveal that our sand is far too valuable to be left lying around on mile after mile of beach.

The Federal Government has not yet made representations to Washington protesting against recent restrictions on the importation of dairy products into the United States, contrary to the Geneva agreement on tariffs and trade. The Canadian Government, according to a statement made in the House of Commons last week, is awaiting a favorable opportunity to review the whole question, after the new U. S. administration settles down.

Henry VIII, King of England, died this date 1547. The early years of his reign were chiefly devoted to promoting commerce and to maintaining the balance of power in Europe, in both of which he was highly successful. He parted from the Pope on the question of his own divorce but was otherwise rigidly orthodox in religion. He attained almost absolute power. Yet as he made Parliament the instrument of his power, he laid the foundation for its ultimate supremacy.

Three new markets are being cultivated by the Pacific Coast Oyster Growers Association, says Marketing. Frozen breaded oysters are packed in both retail and institutional sizes. Large oysters are cut into two or three pieces, uniformly breaded, cooked, and frozen. Oyster stew or soup is a newcomer, several processors promoting their own brand. The large oysters are diced. A third variation being offered to markets beyond reach for the Pacific variety shipped fresh is frozen oysters. This offering is also prepared for the institutional market.

On The Horizon



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.

TWO WONDERFUL DOCTORS

Sir,—Within a few weeks of each other two great Canadian doctors, both born in this Province, have been called to their eternal reward. One, Dr. David W. MacKenzie, was a leading surgeon in Canada, and only a few days ago death called Dr. A. H. Gordon, one of the greatest physicians and teachers on this continent. For many years they gave devoted service to my Alma Mater, the Medical Faculty of McGill. Each of them did much to enhance the reputation and elevate McGill to the lofty peak it holds and maintains among the leading universities of the world. One of the great privileges of my life was in being a pupil of that great teacher, Dr. Gordon. Old students of Dr. Gordon's will never forget his wonderful patience and zealous care in teaching us in the great field of medicine. It has been my good fortune in my college and university days to have had wonderful teachers and no teacher in my experience and judgment was greater or did more for the students than Dr. Gordon. The highest word of appreciation I can truthfully say about him, about his patience, care, and successful teaching record is, that he was a true prototype of our greatest figure in medical history, Sir Wm Osler. Dr. Gordon's bedside manner, his gentle ways with patients and his ability to make difficult medical problems clear to the students of the great Osler. Lucky indeed were the students who had such outstanding doctors as teachers. Dr. "Dave", so well and favorably known on this continent, was not a teacher in my time at McGill, but for a great many years he was my friend, consultant and advisor—and his advice was always good. He was a leading pioneer in both the United States and Canada in his own specialty. Those two wonderful doctors were a great credit to P. E. I. They have brought fame and glory to their native Province. Both enjoyed the highest honors in the profession to which they were justly entitled. I wish to add my personal tribute to two great friends who, besides their professional work, found time to do their native work as well, in their respective churches. Their names will always be remembered by hundreds of grateful students. I am, Sir, etc., W. J. P. MacMILLAN Charlottetown.

The Age-Old Story

For thus saith the Lord that created the heavens; God himself that formed the earth and made it; he hath established it, he created it not in vain, he formed it to be inhabited: I am the Lord; and there is none else.

The Poet's Corner

THE WINTER EVENING Now stir the fire, and close the shutters fast, Let fall the curtains, wheel the sofa round, And, while the bubbling and loud-hissing urn Throws up a steamy column, and that cheer but not inebriate, wait on each, So let us, welcome peaceful evening in, Not such his evening who, with shining face, Sweats in the crowded theatre, and, squeezed And bored with elbow-points through both his sides, Outside the ranting actor on the stage; Nor his, who patient stands till his feet throb, And his head thumps, to feed upon the breath Of patriots, bursting with heroic rage, Or placemen, all tranquility and smiles.

—William Cowper (1731-1800)

Notes By The Ways

This is the age of substitutes—the plastic ukelele, the nylon toothbrush, the synthetic fibre wooler than wool, the laboratory-made ruby more fire-filled than the real gem, the figure padded lusher than life-size, the emulsified edible oils squirted from a can in lieu of whipped cream. It is an insidious age in which the mind loses the judgment of genuineness and accepts the ersatz; in which the counterfeit has become socially acceptable. —Hamilton Spectator.

Old Charlottetown

From an address of the House of Assembly to Queen Victoria, April 8, 1841: "In the year 1831, Your Majesty's royal predecessor was pleased to order the small portion of Crown lands left ungranted in this Colony to be disposed of at public sale, to the highest bidder. By means of such sales, persons in the Royalty of Princeton, whose misfortunes, years ago, had compelled them to clear the forest for a subsistence, were, by the order of 1831, obliged to purchase Lots which they had thus cleared, or to compete at public auction for the very land which their labour had made much more valuable, thus compelling such persons to pay additional sums for their own labour and the improvement of the Colony. "The Crown lands in the Towns and Royalities (now that the greater number of the best lots are sold), are set up for sale, which, however willing the Government of the Colony are to abate, yet it does not appear that they are empowered, either to grant any portion of land improved by the colonists prior to the aforesaid order of 1831, at a fixed rate, or to enforce conditions of improvement on parties purchasing at the Government sales, which would work advantageously for the Colony. "An extraordinary high price is set on the portions of Crown lands in the several Townships of this Colony, without any just cause, as must be evident from the fact, that Crown lands, of equal fertility, and in the vicinity of better markets for the sale of agricultural produce in the adjacent counties of Pictou, Colchester and Cumberland, in Nova Scotia, are sold at from two to three shillings per acre, whilst twenty shillings per acre is demanded for Crown lands in this Island. "May it therefore please Your Majesty to take these subjects into your gracious consideration, and to order His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor to use his discretion, as to the price and disposal of the Crown lands of this Colony, to actual settlers."

Notes By The Ways

To feed on sewage farms, fields and rubbish dumps and gardens within a radius of 12 miles from the centre of London. Over 3,000 starlings were ringed and there were 200 recoveries. All but two, which were recovered in Holland, were found in the outer suburbs. —London Times.

Notes By The Ways

Those were troublesome days in Scotland during what is known as the eviction period. A powerful preacher, with a thunderous voice, a natural leader with a powerful physique, he gathered together a number of his parishioners and decided to set sail for Nova Scotia. This was in 1817. The vessel they sailed on was the tiny barque, Frances Ann. According to well established tradition the boat sprung a leak in mid-Atlantic and the captain decided to return. Norman held a meeting of the passengers and he persuaded them that they nearer America than Ireland, whence the captain intended to return. The captain reluctantly agreed to continue, while the passengers manned the pumps. They finally landed at Pictou and the captain graciously told Norman he was a better seaman than himself.

Notes By The Ways

They settled first near Pictou. The land was rough and the winters hard. The settlers became dissatisfied and it was finally decided that they would migrate to Ohio. In 1820 they set sail in a boat they built called the St. Ann's. But the ship was driven ashore in a storm off Cape Breton.

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Waipu Scots & Cape Breton

A Canadian Press despatch from far-off Auckland, New Zealand, tells of a celebration at a place called Waipu in North Auckland, of the centennial of the arrival of their forefathers from Cape Breton in six small sailing vessels. When we were in New Zealand during the war we first learned of this colony of Scots who made a perilous trip halfway around the world to find a resting place finally in Zealand. At a garden party in Auckland we met Ian Matheson, the president of the Manufacturers' Association for New Zealand who told us his grandfather had come to the Dominion early in the 19th century from Canada. We became interested and learned the epic story of one of the most interesting migrations in history. The story of these settlers goes back to Scotland. The dominant and central figure was the Rev. Norman MacLeod, gaunt, stout, and courageous dissenting minister who led his parish a thousand strong first to Pictou, Nova Scotia, thence to St. Ann's, Cape Breton, and finally around the world in six tiny sailing vessels to Australia and thence across the stormy Tasman Sea to New Zealand. He is one of the most picturesque figures in the religious history of Scotland. Norman, as he was best known, was born in Storr Point, Assynt, Scotland, in 1780. He was a "lad of parts". Like so many young Scotsmen he worked himself through university, graduating first in arts from the University of Aberdeen and thence winning the gold medal for philosophy at Edinburgh. He studied for the ministry at Edinburgh. An individualist he broke with the Church of Scotland and became what is called in Scotland a "stickit minister". Those were troublesome days in Scotland during what is known as the eviction period. A powerful preacher, with a thunderous voice, a natural leader with a powerful physique, he gathered together a number of his parishioners and decided to set sail for Nova Scotia. This was in 1817. The vessel they sailed on was the tiny barque, Frances Ann. According to well established tradition the boat sprung a leak in mid-Atlantic and the captain decided to return. Norman held a meeting of the passengers and he persuaded them that they nearer America than Ireland, whence the captain intended to return. The captain reluctantly agreed to continue, while the passengers manned the pumps. They finally landed at Pictou and the captain graciously told Norman he was a better seaman than himself. They settled first near Pictou. The land was rough and the winters hard. The settlers became dissatisfied and it was finally decided that they would migrate to Ohio. In 1820 they set sail in a boat they built called the St. Ann's. But the ship was driven ashore in a storm off Cape Breton.

Notes By The Ways

They liked the look of the land and they decided it was God's will they took possession. The colony under the leadership of their minister grew and prospered. But the people were not happy. Norman had a son in South Australia who wrote glowing accounts of that new settlement telling of a warm climate, good soil and pots of gold at the foot of the Australian rainbow. Although Norman was by this time over 70, it was decided to migrate to Australia. A ship was built and in 1851 Norman, with his wife, three sons and three daughters, and 136 of his parishioners, set sail. It is hard to realize today what a momentous trip this was. They sailed around the perilous Cape of Good Hope and across the almost unknown South Pacific Ocean. It was on October 28, 1851, they set sail and after a trip of 154 days and sailing 21,000 miles they reached Adelaide. They were deeply disappointed. Most of the good land had been taken up. They sailed on to Melbourne, which was then in the midst of the gold boom. The party found again no suitable place for a settlement and were about to break up when the pastor heard of opportunities for settlement in New Zealand where they would be welcomed. And so having sold their ship they took passage on a trading vessel for Auckland. They found an ideal site at Waipu, about 100 miles north of Auckland. They were given by the Government a block of land of 47,000 acres.

In the meantime a second vessel had sailed from Cape Breton and arrived in Adelaide where they were advised to go on to Melbourne. Here they learned that pastures green had been found in New Zealand and they proceeded to Waipu. Letters back to Cape Breton gave glowing accounts of new found Goshen and four more vessels were fitted out and in all a thousand settlers in six ships finally reached the new settlement. Here they carried on the traditions of Scotland and of the New Scotland they left. A church was built immediately and here Mr. MacLeod administered his flock until his death in 1868 at the ripe old age of 86. For many years services were conducted in Gaelic and English. Caledonian Games were still held annually, although in Canada only a few old settlers today speak the Gaelic. The settlers have prospered over the years and their descendants have played an important part in the development of New Zealand. Most New Zealanders talk of Britain as home, but to the people of Waipu, Cape Breton which they left a hundred years ago is still "home". Their memory is not forgotten in Nova Scotia. At St. Ann's in Cape Breton a building has been erected at which a Gaelic school is held annually. There are memories and pictures of MacLeod and the pioneer settlers.

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