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"The Strongest Memory is Weaker Than the Weakest Ink"

CHARLOTTETOWN, THURSDAY, DEC. 14, 1950

Time To Man The Stockades

Back in the days when the West was still a wilderness of grasslands, buffalo herds and Indians, intrapud hunters frequently had to halt their covered wagon caravans, and fight off savage Indian attacks. Early settlements were protected by stockades, and part of the slim resources of the settlers had to go for muskets and ball to provide defence against the savages. It seldom occurred to those early pioneers that life would be easy. They recognized that what little security they knew must be provided by dint of sacrificing creature comforts and working longer and harder hours.

Today Canadians still confront the savages. The fact that they happen to be Russians and live outside our borders is a difference only of degree. But they menace our way of life far more than did the Indians in the days of our forefathers.

The paradox of the Russian menace is that the Government of Canada through responsible Ministers of the Crown says that the people of this country can build their stockades, stock up on musket and ball, and still suffer no inconvenience in their ordinary way of life. Labor Minister Gregg said, in effect, just that, a few days ago.

It is a pity that Mr. Gregg and some of his cabinet colleagues had not lived in the days of the covered wagon. For if they had, they would not talk such nonsense. Canadians cannot eat buffalo steak every night and man the stockades as well. If we are going to do both, people will have to work twice as hard as they do now. If they don't, one of two things will happen. Either the savages will climb the stockades and slaughter them, or buffalo steaks and everything else will get so scarce dollars won't buy them any more.

Death On The Streets

It seems so obvious that city streets are designed for traffic rather than as playgrounds that it should not have to be given a second thought. Yet one can see youngsters of all ages acting as if the contrary were true. The older ones habitually play ball or hockey on the pavement, pausing only momentarily to allow traffic to pass.

More seriously, tiny tots follow their elders' example and may pop out anywhere from behind parked cars, or play on the street around, and even on cars stopped for longer or shorter periods. It is not rare for a driver to put a car in motion only to get frantic signals that a tiny tot is clinging to his bumper.

Children cannot be expected to have traffic sense, and it is the parents' duty to make it a firm disciplinary matter that smaller children stay off the street. Older ones who can take better care of themselves must remember that they are enticing the smaller children into danger, and should at least do what they can to discourage imitation.

Drivers, of course, must always assume that there is a child in any blind spot.

The Calendar

As we near the end of another year and 1951 calendars make their appearance it is worth taking a look at this venerable institution. Julius Caesar reformed the old Roman calendar in 46 B.C. with the help of Sosigenes, an astronomer from Alexandria. The Julian calendar consisted of months of alternately 30 and 31 days except February which had 29 or 30. Augustus later named the eighth month after himself and gave it a day from February in order to have as many as July. He also changed the last four months from 31, 30, 31, 30 to 31, 30, 31, 31 to avoid a series of three 31 day months. At the same time he adjusted leap year so that the average year was only 11 minutes and 14 seconds too long.

Pope Gregory XIII made a further correction in 1582, providing that centennial years would only be leap years if divisible by 400 instead of 4, dropping 10 days to adjust the past error. This Gregorian calendar is in general use today although not adopted in England until 1752.

The World Calendar Association is advocating an equal-quarter calendar in which the months are 30, 30, 31 days in each quarter and either one or two "year days." A given date will always fall on the same day of the week.

The two calendars will not coincide.

however, until 1956 so that it will be necessary to remember the jingle "Thirty days hath . . ." for a few years yet even if the reform is decided upon.

EDITORIAL NOTES

The railway labour dispute is about settled by Mr. Justice Kellock's decision, but the settlement will undoubtedly unsettle freight rates and other charges all over again.

The Quebec Government is carrying out a survey of hotels and restaurants to find out how consumption of fish can be increased. Their findings will be watched with interest by this Province.

Premier Smallwood's extensive plans for Maritime industrial development are not, he says, "socialistic". Perhaps the St. Laurent description of "Liberal in a hurry" is the cap that fits.

Orders for \$60,000,000 worth of foodstuffs for 1951 from Britain is something to crow over, double the present year's total, and which does not include wheat. A separate deal has to be made for the Prairie's produce.

We are reminded that under a judgment of Magistrate Hinton, Summerside, the unrestricted sale of "Shako" is not illegal here. To make it so the present law must be amended, which cannot be done before the next meeting of the Legislature.

Crime may not be a serious threat in this Province but the break into the Summerside office of the Attorney-General seems to indicate that law enforcement is not much of a threat to the criminal either.

The immediate effect of Summerside's agreement with the Maritime Electric Co. Ltd. seems to be to continue the Town as supplier of power to the airport for the next year, but with compensation on an emergency basis.

Europe is not yet undergoing a "war scare" according to reports, but when correspondents consider it appropriate to note that cities are not being evacuated, the situation can hardly be regarded as normal.

An unusually productive cow. It's quads on the Baker farm in Jacksonville, Tex. The mother is Baker's Jersey cow, to whom two heifers and two bulls were born. All are normal, healthy animals. Last year, the cow gave birth to twins.

The H. M. S. "Maggie" rockers for the Nelson Smith children at St. Eleanor's have now safely reached port and been presented by an officer representing the Navy, Lieut. J. Richards, of H.M.S. Queen Charlotte. It has been an interesting interlude in naval routine, and will become historical.

With two official candidates in the field for election to represent Queen's in the House of Commons, announcement should not be delayed in declaring the election date. Perhaps it may be fixed for sometime in January. Meantime the Federal Government is saving the annual indemnities of some \$6,000 which rightly belongs to the Senator-to-be and M.P. respectively.

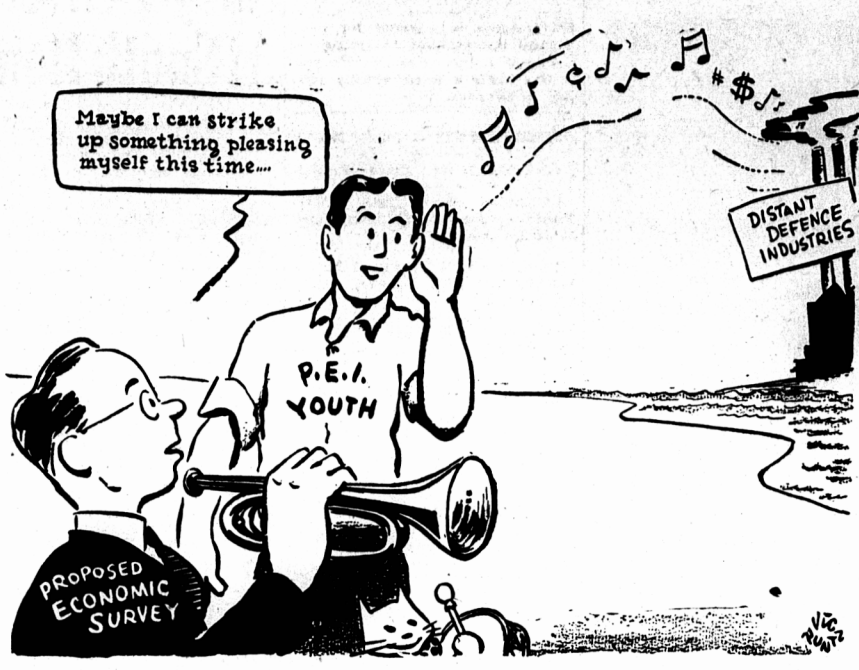
The King's Birthday. His Most Excellent Majesty George the Sixth, second son of His late Majesty King George V, born in York Cottage, Sandringham, this date 1895. He succeeded to the throne December 11, 1936, and was crowned May 12, 1937, having married April 26, 1923, the Lady Elizabeth Angela Marguerite, daughter of the 14th Earl of Strathmore and Kingborne.

Egg prices on December 8 this year and previous years. The prices quoted below are for Grade A Large. At Montreal and Toronto the prices are those at which graded shipments are selling to wholesalers. At other points quotations are prices to shippers for ungraded eggs.

Table with columns for location (Montreal, Toronto, Winnipeg, Vancouver, Edmonton, Regina, Charlottetown) and years (1950, 1949, 1948) with corresponding prices.

Table with columns for Province, Weight of Live and Dressed Poultry at Registered Stations week ending (Nov. 25, Nov. 18, Nov. 11) and prices in lb.

Getting in Tune With The Times



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.

COVEHEAD HARBOUR, 1770

Sir,—I have just read your "Marked Changes in P. E. I. Shoreline" and it brings to mind a bit of early Island history. On June 3rd, 1770, the good ship "Falmouth" with Lord Montgomery's settlers for Lot 34 arrived off East Point but could not get to Charlottetown on account of ice. She then sailed westward along the shore and went in to Princeton (Malpeque) where she remained for two days and three nights. On June 6th she sailed Eastward where Captain Higgins boarded the ship and piloted them into Covehead Harbor. Lawrence Giles Brown was Lord Montgomery's Superintendent and families of Lawson's and Auld's were also among the settlers. Captain Higgins was already resident on the Island and a member of its first House, of which his brother Captain David Higgins was Speaker. There are descendants of all the above families still in Charlottetown and other parts of Queen's County.

I am, Sir, etc. ISLANDER

THE MUSEUM PROBLEM

Sir,—No one should be discouraged by Premier Jones' letter to the Summerside Council regarding a Provincial Museum. Mr. Jones was correct. A decision for the erection of a museum certainly isn't imminent, nor will it be for a good many years unless more people interest themselves in the question. Our greatest need now is not a decision by the Government, but a decision by the people. We must each of us decide how much we are willing to pay toward having a museum.

To insure its permanent operation, the maintaining of a museum must be a public expense, as all public education is, but if the people want to indicate to the Government their sincere interest in this project, they could do no better as individuals and groups, than to subscribe a substantial proportion of the cost of the building.

The constitution of the P. E. I. Arts and Crafts Guild outlines its aims so far as preserving the historical material in this Province is concerned, and the Guild is giving constant attention to the question. More than a year ago, the board of the Guild discussed a plan to invite the public to subscribe to the cost of a museum, but it felt at the time not nearly enough were interested. More publicity was required to make people "museum minded" so to speak. There has been more publicity in the past year. The I.O. D.E., the Women's Institutes and other groups as well as the Guild have helped to point out the need for a museum. More recently the Councils of Summerside and Charlottetown and the Boards of Trade have taken up the question. But this still isn't enough publicity to have reached into every community in the Island and made it want to give its support to the museum project.

If everybody on the Island made a New Year's resolution to put one penny away every day during 1951 for a museum, we'd have enough money by next Christmas, without going to the Government, to erect a building which would be the pride of the Maritimes and all Canada. One more good museum is an asset to the whole country. And even if the war situation should worsen, having the money gathered together would be a guarantee of going ahead with the project at the earliest convenience as well as providing employment for those who may need it.

Would it be worthwhile having all the organizations in the Province unite themselves in an effort to encourage all their members to take part in such a savings plan? Attractive little banks with appropriate wording on them could be made fairly cheaply and widely distributed with organizations accepting the responsibility for making monthly collections. Such a parade of pennies would serve as a daily reminder of our goal for a museum, would enable

Old Charlottetown

(And P. E. I.) ANCHORAGE DUES

From the Speech from the Throne by Lieutenant Governor Sir Alexander Bannerman, in progressing the Legislative Assembly, April 16, 1853:

"A few days ago I received from Washington a voluminous report on the fisheries. In a note appended to that report, page 462, it is stated: 'This year every vessel which visits the harbours of prince Edward Island is obliged to pay another tax, which is called anchorage dues. As almost all of our vessels visit this Island, this new duty about doubles the tax on them. It is said that the duty paid by our vessels is for the support of their lighthouses. But where are the lighthouses? There is no light on the whole northern coast of Prince Edward Island, which is most visited by our fishermen. Our fishing vessels alone pay light duty to have the coast well lighted. The officers who collect these duties admit that they are unjust; but still they say their Government must impose them. The officers at the Island offer to take anything, when the captain hesitates about the paying of specie; they will take molasses, pork, and even oil-cloths. This is a nice way to smuggle in the goods.'"

"As two thousand copies of this report have been ordered to be printed for the use of Congress, that body might justly consider that the subject of a friendly power were not very courteously treated in Prince Edward Island, if such statements were allowed to pass unnoticed and unexplained."

"Now, it is admitted that 'almost all the American fishing vessels visit the Island.' This admission is an important one; for it proves the value which is attached to such a fishing station in the Gulf of St. Lawrence. But they not only visit the Island, but they fish within half a mile of its shores, and during the season they frequent and occupy our harbours in fifties and a hundred at a time. And if they are charged anchorage dues for such accommodation, the Act which imposes a tax on American vessels levies the same tax on Provincial fishing vessels, and all British ships, and the ships of everyone on the Island to take part, and would build up an interest in using the museum after it is established."

This is just a suggestion. There may be many other and better ways to raise the money required. The important fact is that people all over the Province must give it their thought, and they must do it together.

I am, Sir, etc. A. M. CLARK President, P.E.I. Arts and Crafts Guild

The Age-Old Story

Wherewith shall I come before the Lord, and how myself before him? God? shall I come before him with burnt offerings, with calves of a year old? Will the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams, or with ten thousands of rivers of oil? Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul? He hath shewed thee, O man, what is good; and what doth the Lord require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God?

other nations. The duties collected are expressly appropriated by law for the purpose of navigation, in erecting beacons and lights, and laying down buoys, and however often ships may enter our ports, anchorage dues are only exacted from each of them once within the year. "It is also stated, 'there is no light on the northern coast of Prince Edward Island.' With regret I admit the fact. But I am happy to think that several are now in the progress of construction; and I trust the Colony will follow the example of the Lighthouse Board, recently established in the United States, who wisely refer the sites to be chosen for lights to experienced hydrographers. "Lastly, if any anchorage dues have been collected in this Colony in the singular way alluded to in the statement, it is unknown to me, and the Government associated with me in the Executive, who will order a strict investigation to be made on this subject."

Thou art the first of all the months to begin That arduous upward climbing back to June, Back to the blossom's richly scented fires, Back to the scarlet rose and yellow whin, Back to a host of hymeneal choirs Warning the world with rune. Though not one leaf of green is in thy hands Thou art the true beginning of the year. And from thy lengthened nights and frozen lands Come Ceres' harvest and Apollo's spear. Carver of stalactites, mother of that skill Which limned by night upon my window-pane The silver-crayoned etching of the frost, And robed the pines upon this choric hill With cunning which the ages have not lost! Is sorrow then in vain? Mourn not for these dark days; the heavens are bold, And fiery pageants march the evening sky; And when the last pale amber swoons in cold The iceberg of a winter's night floats by.

—Wilson MacDonald.

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Notes By The Way

In the early days of Brooks an old-timer was chosen as Justice of the peace. He knew little law and when a case came before him he would take out, with a flourish, a fine-looking book, inside of which he had fastened an Eaton's catalogue. In one case he thumbed the pages, put his finger on a point, and said: "You are fined \$4.98." The defendant got up to protest. "Sit down," his lawyer cautioned. "You're just plain lucky he turned to Panto instead of Pianos." — From Brooks Bulletin.

After six years of research, a Leeds, England, firm has produced new colored inks which may revolutionize poster advertising. The inks are much brighter than natural colors and, it is claimed, glow as brilliantly as neon signs at four times the distance. They show to their best advantage at dawn, dusk or in bad light, and placed beside daffodils in the dusk, the new yellow ink will glow brightly as the yellow of the daffodils fades. Described as non-toxic and harmless, the inks are now being tested to see if they can be used for clothing. They are resistant to rain and can be used for head-squares and flags. The firm offers no comment on the possibility of this new development. It is no escape from poster ads even at night; and luminous ladies shining like neons. — Halifax Chronicle-Herald.

United Kingdom cloth designers are giving a lead to greater brightness in men's suitings. One of the latest ideas is to weave highly colored threads in with the quieter tones, so that they peek through and give a bloom of color to the whole fabric without dominating it. According to the style of weave, these colors may come out as flecked effects or the minutest of checks on a colored eye in a check or eye pattern. Often in the finest worsteds, it is impossible to see the color threads with the naked eye. But they are there and they leave the whole. Multi-colored fleck effects are also being promoted in fine cheviot twist sport trousers. These take a lead from the colorful Donegal breed but are very much lighter in weight and more closely woven than that sporting hosiery. Less restricted to the subtle approach are designers styling cloths for the sunshine markets. Bright suns blue, Burgundy red, golden maize and a burnt straw tone are in one new range of gabardines, woven to give a diagonal cord effect and finished with a decided shine or lustre on the surface which the makers call "iridescent." Fancy cord-weave worsteds, with the up-and-down rib, like riding cloths are also being promoted for leisure wear. They are the traditional fawns and in a sunny matize-yellow shade. — U. K. Information

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Wilson MacDonald. The Poet's Corner

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