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"The strongest memory is weaker than  
the weakest ink."

THURSDAY, JANUARY 12, 1956

Governor's Proclamation

The serious disruption of communications and electric power in Prince County and the western part of Queens has been officially noted by a proclamation issued by the Lieutenant Governor in Council, proclaiming these sections a disaster area until further notice. The proclamation followed an inspection tour of the area by several members of the Provincial Government, as reported in yesterday's issue, who expressed themselves as shocked by the widespread damage caused.

Just how assistance can best be rendered in this emergency is the question of most concern. As Mayor Wedge of Summerside pointed out in acknowledging the offer of assistance from the Charlottetown City Council, the immediate need is for technical equipment. It is doubtful if this can be obtained in the Maritimes in view of the devastation wreaked by the storm in Nova Scotia and the urgent demands for similar relief in the neighboring province. But the Lieutenant Governor's proclamation may serve a good purpose in calling nation-wide attention to the situation, and may speed up federal assistance. Our western citizens are doing everything they can to help themselves, and are organized under able leadership. If equipment is available in any part of Canada at the present time, there should be no delay in rushing it here.

The Visiting Fish

For some years now there have been reports of the presence of strange tropical fish in Northern waters. A few of the visitors have been put down as "worth catching", but most of them have been given nuisance status. This, at least, has been the unofficial view; and it is now confirmed by experts attached to biological stations at St. Andrew's, N. B., and St. John's, Nfld. As to the reason or reasons for this influx of unusual fish, this is a matter that the experts are not too anxious to discuss authoritatively, although it has been generally supposed that the mild winters the North has been experiencing in recent years have had something to do with it.

Whether scientifically based or not, this view was, of course, comforting to those people—including almost everybody—who were quite sure that the winters are warming up. Obviously, fish wouldn't go to the trouble and risk involved in moving northwards unless they were reasonably certain of finding congenial quarters resembling those back home. The present winter, however, which has been anything but semi-tropical so far, has caused experts and non-experts alike to reconsider the prevailing optimism. Indeed, there were a few days around Christmas time when it was easy enough to find supporters of the theory that we are headed for another ice-age rather than perpetual warmth and sunshine. The truth probably is that we are headed for neither one nor the other and that, taking one winter with another over a reasonable period, the climate has not changed much and is not likely to do so.

All of which brings us back to the case of the strange fish. Who knows? Perhaps, as happens to some humans every now and then, they simply grew tired of staying around home and decided to see for themselves what life was like beyond the seas. If they knew what was good for them, they would follow the example of the lobster which, according to expert testimony, never moves more than a few miles from home, yet, apparently, manages to get along quite well. It may be, of course, that the lobster has more inner resources than some other types of fish and is, therefore, less dependent on strangers for those things which give zest to living.

A Book Report

Statistics recently released by sections of the United States book publishing industry show some interesting things, including the information that Americans—and probably Canadians, too, though this is only an inference—are reading more than ever before. More important is the fact that they are reading better and more serious literature. And, perhaps more important still is that more money was actually spent on books in 1955 than in any other year since the end of the war. This implies less dependence on public libraries which, though they cannot be praised too highly, were never intended to take the place of private ownership of books where financial means make this privilege economically feasible.

As usual, works of fiction led the list of best-sellers—and, presumably the list of books that were read—in 1955. Here, too, there was a pleasant development; serious fiction seems to have been in greater and more sustained demand than in other years, at the expense of sensational and trivial works. An extraordinarily pleasant bit of information is that next to adult fiction came books for young people. So, after all the fears and forebodings, it may be that the threat of television on the reading habits of the young has lost some of its power. There could be no better news than that in this or any other year.

Third place was taken by religious books, a classification which, admittedly, covers a lot of territory, some of it of doubtful jurisdiction. It is good to know that the Bible, which for many years has been in greater demand than any other single book, has retained that distinction. Whether or not it is read more than any other book is, of course, another matter, and one for which it would be difficult to furnish statistics. One surprising statistic has to do with books of science. It shows that, despite all the pressures of modern scientific development and outcry, such books occupy a relatively low place on the list of both publication and sales. Their place, in fact, is only a notch higher than that enjoyed by such works as essays, literary criticism, and others in the field of intellectual stimulation. This last, it is true is not a new showing. Like mild winters—and hard ones, too—it seems to come in cycles. It may, therefore, be nothing more than a fad, which will have its brief day and then disappear. Even so, it is worth noting.

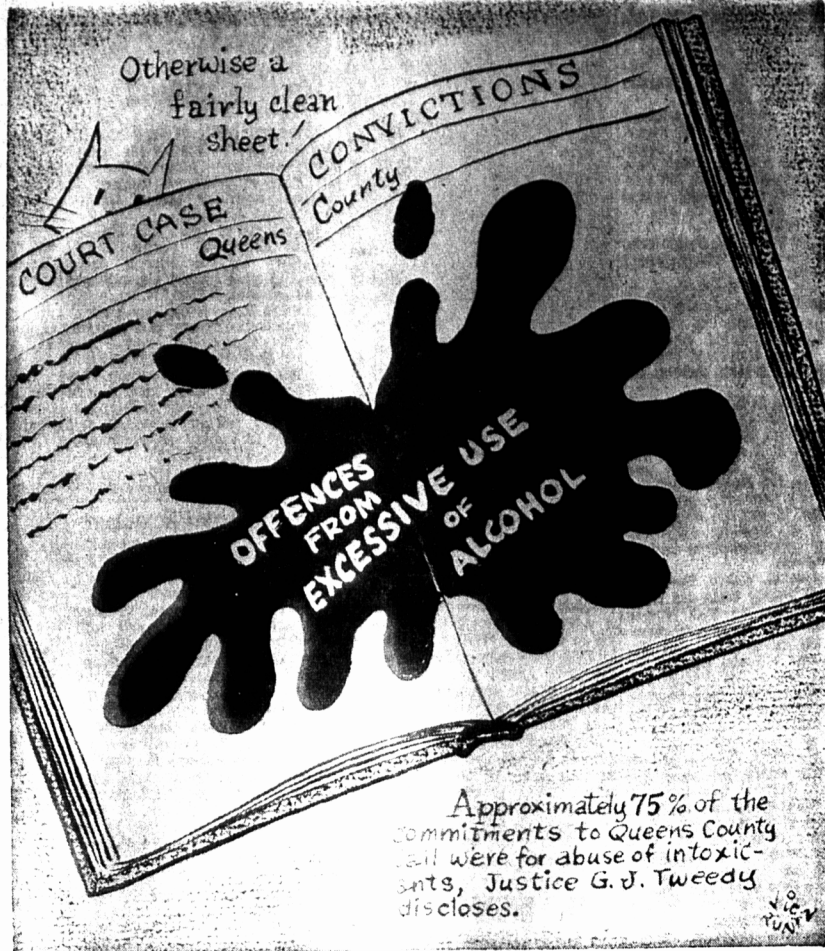
EDITORIAL NOTES

A British M. P. is quoted as saying "if men worked as hard as women do, England would never be faced with an economic crisis." He couldn't have done too well with the women's vote in the last election!

Scientists have discovered still another use for fish: bread-making. Fish will not have come into their own, however, until some bright fellow finds a way to take all the irritating qualities out of herring bones the moment they come from the net.

Is the belief that another great war will not come in the foreseeable future as strong as is commonly thought? No, it isn't, if one may judge from the results of a poll sponsored by the United States Defence Department among several thousand young men of military age. A substantial majority answered "yes" to the question "Do you believe the United States will become involved in another war in your lifetime?"

The Speech from the Throne at Ottawa did not mention any pending legislation on the proposed new federal-provincial fiscal arrangement. It stated, however, that a specific proposal had been presented to the Provinces, to begin next year when the existing tax rental agreements expire. Also of interest to this part of Canada is the announcement of a boost in the size of loans available from the Canadian Farm Loan Board. The current problem of Prairie grain growers is emphasized but there does not appear to be any reference to the potato situation which, though posing problems of lesser magnitude, is of much concern to Maritime growers.



BLOT

The Prime Minister's Mail

Winnipeg Free Press

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.

EMERGENCY IN BORDEN

Sir,—In a report published in Tuesday's Guardian it says that investigators were informed in Borden that conditions were fairly good. Such statements were incorrect. Certainly 70 per cent of the people rely on hydro for heating but nothing is said about the 80 per cent who rely on hydro for water supplies. Summerside has been rightly designated a disaster area and they are better off than we inasmuch as they have limited water supplies and sewerage. Surely we in the Borden area, with no hydro for heating, no water supplies and no sewerage are as badly off as Summerside! Why should such misleading statements be made and accepted? The Army are assisting New Brunswick and should also be called in here — a squad of Engineers with a portable generator could run temporary lines and have hydro on in 72 hours. An accurate appraisal of the situation in this town would reveal that in the event of a cold snap, the 70 per cent without adequate heat would be in a serious plight. Yet as a result of such erroneous statements as those made to the Red Cross, the Borden area will be left until later — "we are in fairly good shape!"

This is as much a disaster area as Summerside and the sooner the fact is acknowledged the better!

I am, Sir, etc.  
R. S. F. MACKAY  
Borden.



WINTER EVENING

To-night the very horses springing by Toss gold from whitened nostrils. In a dream The streets that narrow to the westward gleam Like rows of golden palaces; and high From all the crowded chimneys tower and die A thousand aureoles. Down in the west The brimming plains be-ath the sunset rest. One burning sea of gold. Soon, soon shall fly The glorious vision, and the hours shall feel A mightier master; soon from height to height, With silence and the sharp un-pitying stars, Stern creeping frosts, and winds that touch like steel, Out of the depths beyond the eastern bars, Glittering and still shall come the awful night.—Archibald Lampman.

HONITON, England (CP)—An overflow pipe in this Devonshire town was blocked by a swarm of bees. Beeskeepers spent two hours trying to clear it.

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The majority of requests for the Prime Minister's autograph come from Canadian teenagers, but not from adult American collectors. A peak of demand was reached in 1954, after Mr. St. Laurent's round the world tour. Even so, the number of requests does not equal those addressed to the late Mackenzie King in his heyday, though a couple of bang-up Canadian-American occasions, such as the Ogdensburg conference or the Hyde Park agreement, might quickly redress the balance. The majority of requests for photographs, contrariwise, come from Canadian school pupils—boys just as much as girls. In general, roughly two thirds of the mail addressed to the PM has been sent to the wrong minister. For example, numerous letters of the "There-ought-to-be-a-law" or types, plus requests for pensions and such, have to be readdressed to the appropriate department.

**NOTED SCIENTISTS**  
HYDERABAD, India (CP)—The Indian academy of sciences has awarded honorary memberships to Dr. Ira S. Bowen, director of the Palomar and Mount Wilson observatories in California, and Dr. Harold C. Urey of the institute of nuclear physics at Chicago.

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Medically Speaking

By Herman N. Gundesen, M. D.

**A FEW ADJUSTMENTS WILL INSURE BATHROOM SAFETY**  
While the bathroom is a relatively safe place in comparison with other rooms in most homes, there are many hazards here which can be eliminated with a little thought.

The very combination of two things you'll find in every bathroom, water and electricity, present the greatest hazard. Most everyone, of course, knows the danger of touching any electric fixture or appliance with wet hands or while standing on a damp floor. Yet, did you know that merely touching a metal water faucet while turning on an un-insulated light fixture might be just as fatal?

METAL FAUCET

Simultaneous contact with a metal faucet and the brass portion of a light socket or pull chain completes a circuit. If you have a light over the washbowl in your bathroom which is controlled by a pull device make sure this chain and the outside of the light socket are not made of metal.

Bathroom pull cords, if possible, should be replaced by wall switches. If you cannot do this, make sure the metal chains are replaced with cords or at least that an insulated link is installed in the chain about one inch from the opening shell of the light.

All electric appliances except electric shavers should be banned from the bathroom.

Since most home accidents involve falls, place a good firm "L" shaped handrail on the wall along the side of the bathtub. And shower curtain rods should be anchored firmly to the studs, not merely to the plaster. These are the first things a falling bather tries to grasp.

Keep all soap in a soap dish or container that will hold even tiny pieces.

Hanging clothes in the bathroom can be very dangerous. But if you must dry them there, hang them over the tub so that dripping water won't make the floor slippery.

Repair all porcelain handles with handles made of metal or other safe materials. Porcelain handles frequently break, causing serious cuts. Sections of medicine cabinets containing dangerous drugs, laxatives and the like should be locked. And do not forget an open medicine cabinet door might mean a nasty bump on the head.

Place all towel and clothes hooks above eye level to prevent face injuries. And do not use more than one type of toilet or bathtub cleaner at one time. Some cleaners and solvents produce a deadly gas when used at the same time.

QUESTION AND ANSWER

Y. E. T.: My brother had a cut on his face, which healed with a very large, red scar. Will the scar recur if it is cut out?

Answer: Certain people have a tendency to form large scars or keloids following injury. Usually they do have a tendency to recur. However, X-ray treatment during the healing stage can prevent this to some degree.

ANCIENT RULE

Among the ancient Britons, a daughter was obliged to marry the man selected by her father.

Notes By The Way

People conversing on a telephone can't see one another—unless the phone has a television attachment. And yet the personality boys gesture and grin at the mouthpiece. Women flutter their eyelashes at the telephone and sometimes wiggle their hips at it. But it doesn't move. —Sherbrooke Record.

Mayor Hammond has this week supported a suggestion made in the Leader-Post a year ago that discarded Christmas trees should be collected and placed on open ground near the city. On Jan. 6, the Feast of Epiphany marking the end of the Christmas season, the trees will be set alight in a spectacular bonfire which should delight the hearts of young and old alike. —Regina Leader-Post.

For the third time the New York City Board of Health is bringing in a report favoring fluoridation. Four years has passed since the American Public Health Association said: "New York City is most strongly urged to fluoridate its water supply as soon as possible". The highest medical and dental authority throughout the land concurs in support of fluoridation. The cost involved is insignificant—except in the damage done to children by delay. We ask again? What are we waiting for? —New York Times.

A new chemical has been found which produces temporary silliness in otherwise well-balanced people. At first it would seem superfluous as there is more silliness in evidence than is strictly necessary. But it is hoped that the drug may open the way to new treatment of mental ills. The chemical may be produced in the body and may touch off some of the mental conditions which cause so much suffering. It is interesting to note that the discoverer was a Canadian, Dr. Abram Hoffer, of University Hospital, Saskatoon. —London Free Press

In the long run, the stability of the West German republic—and perhaps the peace of Europe—may depend not so much on the records of individual officials as on whether the Bonn government itself remains strong enough to discourage any army meddling in politics. —Edmonton Journal.

Many people take pleasure in laying out some kind of feed for the birds during Winter, but it may not occur to them that birds need water also. They thirst, as well as hunger, and a saucer or some other dishful of water should supplement the food. Only those who give food to the little feathered creatures who bravely stay here all Winter know the satisfaction of seeing them flutter down in an instant and swarm over the bread or grain, twittering and chattering their gratitude. —St. Thomas Times-Journal

After two-year's suspension, the R.C.M.P.'s world-famous "musical ride" is to return. It was almost exactly two years ago that Ottawa announced the ride was being suspended, because first-class riders were difficult to find and the training and engagements of the ride interfered excessively with police training. On the face of them, these reasons sound solid enough. But the deeper truth is that the ride is much more than equestrian display. The ride is a symbol, just as the Queen's Household Cavalry is a symbol. The ride is a symbol, a living monument as it were, to the gigantic task of opening up the Canadian West which was accomplished by the first North West Mounted Police detachments. The ride is Canadian history in the flesh. Both for the public, Canadian and otherwise, and for the Mounties themselves, this symbol has importance. It will always live in our history books. But it is so much better to see it "live." —Montreal Gazette

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