

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 WEDNESDAY, OCT. 14, 1953

Credit Unions

The simile of the bundle of sticks compared with the easily broken individual sticks in the bundle is highly appropriate for International Trade Union Day which is being observed this week.

Men have always combined for security and increased well-being. There is a danger sometimes of attributing all virtue to one particular form of organization.

Credit Unions are a specialized form of joint enterprise aimed specifically at strengthening the economic position of "the little man."

Anticipating Hallowe'en

There is a marked difference between Hallowe'en in Charlottetown and Summerside in recent years and the earlier goings-on. Instead of vandalism of every description there has been an enjoyable spree of dressing up and merrymaking.

The essential difference has been that a great many citizens showed a determination to give the youngsters a good time rather than merely make a show of force to prevent damage to property and tricks against individuals.

This and the organization of private parties provides a vent for the release of high spirits so that the task of the police has been very much simplified.

The Taxation Drift

The Canadian Journal of Economics and Political Sciences quotes the following statement from Professor Benjamin Higgins, formerly of McGill University: "There is no reason why a strongly supported government should not collect one hundred per cent of personal income, and pay it out again in family allowances, pensions, interest on debt, etc., without any economic effects whatsoever."

This, comments the Montreal Gazette, may come as a bit of a shock. Yet the idea advanced by Professor Higgins is really not as surprising as some might think.

A few months ago the Montreal tax authority, Mr. J. R. Petrie, pointed out that this year the different governments of Canada will collect a total in taxes of about \$6.6 billion.

already gone one third of the way towards that ultimate possibility of which Professor Higgins speaks. Within this process there is a large amount of money being taken from the people for their own "welfare."

It all comes down to the question of how much people want to do for themselves and how much they would like the government to do for them, says The Gazette. "In its original conception, welfare payments, or social security, had as their object the relief of the poor and the distressed."

If anyone is shocked at Professor Higgins' suggestion of a government taking away every cent a person earns, let him be shocked first at how much the government is taking from him now.

Professor Higgins believes that the movement upwards to 100 per cent taxation could be accomplished "without any economical effects whatsoever."

The English writer, John Stuart Mill, pointed out these effects 100 years ago in his celebrated essay On Liberty. "In a country," he wrote, "where all the citizens were appointed and paid by the government, and looked to the government for every rise in life, not all the freedom of the press and popular constitution of the legislature would make this country freer otherwise than in name."

EDITORIAL NOTES

In this day it is literally true that love-hat wings. There were 15 brides-to-be amongst the 64 passengers in the Royal Dutch Airlines DC-6 which won the transport division of the race from London to Christchurch.

The annual meeting of the Prince Edward Island Curling Association this evening will see curlers from Alberton, Summerside, Charlottetown, Montague and Souris setting the stage, or rather the ice for another season of "the roaring game."

Deep-sea fishing has been "discovered" by French sport fishermen it is reported from Paris. From taking part in fishing off the Canadian and American Atlantic coast they have gone back to take up the same sport off their own northern shores.

The tourist trade should be helping Britain to earn dollars to spend in this country. 30,042 Canadians have visited Britain in the first eight months of this year, an increase of 17 per cent on the 25,361 visitors from Canada in the same period of last year.

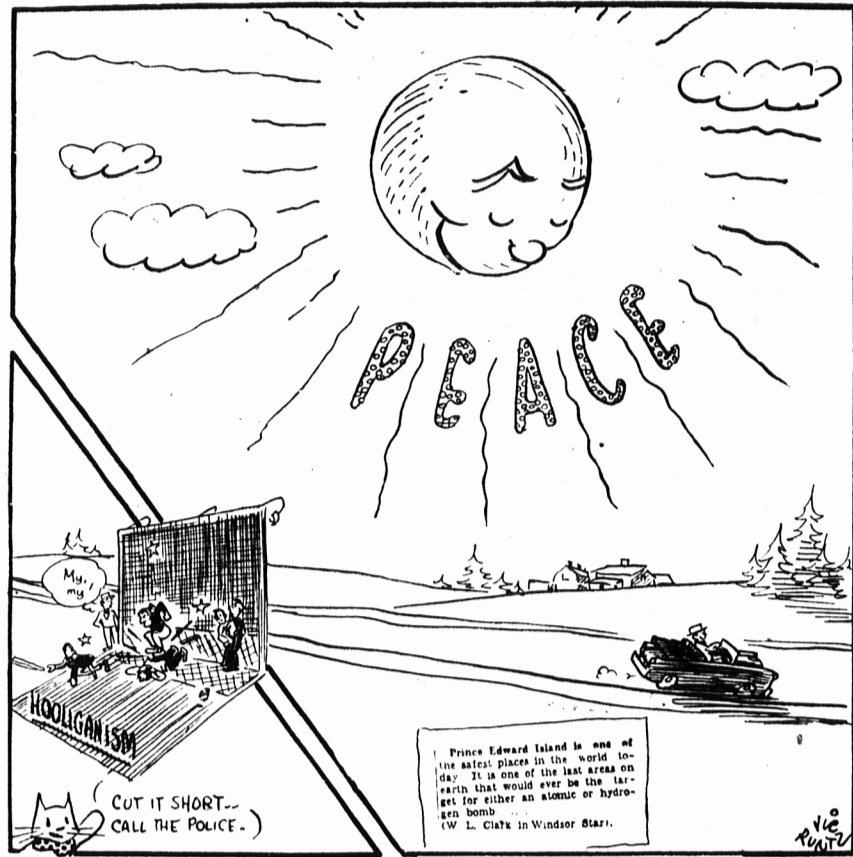
The enthusiasm for rural beautification is almost wholly to the good but one caution might be in order. What is old cannot be replaced once it has been "orn down and once in a while a particularly fine old structure is threatened with replacement by something modern that has nothing to commend it but its modernity.

Churchill, the great war leader of freonations, wants to be known as a builder of peace. The ambition is admirable and, indeed, quite in line with his public life over the years.

President Dwight David Eisenhower was born this date 1890. His family, originally Swiss, came to America before there was a United States. He graduated from West Point in 1915. By 1942 he was a lieutenant-general and thereafter was advanced more rapidly than any other American officer.

The rapid rate of house construction on a building scheme at Drumchapel, Glasgow, has attracted building experts from Canada, Australia, Germany, Persia and South America. The rate of completion of 1,800 houses in 468 working days is believed to be a world record.

Spoiling The Pretty Picture



The Poet's Corner

AUTUMN Orange pumpkins circle the tawny shock. Maples shower red and golden stars. Apple butter is amber in yellow crock. Topaz, carnelian, glint from jelly jars. Brass and copper blend in sunset flame. Autumn is a Titian in a gilded frame. —Gertrude Metzger Johnson.

Old Charlottetown (And P. E. I.)

NEWSPAPER ITEMS

From The Islander, Aug. 5, 1964: Mr. Robert Montgomery's portion of the Montgomery Estate (including the Whim Road Settlement, Lot 59) has, we are glad to learn, just passed into the hands of the Government, and will be disposed of immediately to actual settlers, upon easy terms. We are glad also to learn that Mr. Haythorne is about to dispose of his estate to the tenantry of Lot 48, at 12s. 6d. per acre, payable in six annual installments—the purchasers agreeing to take both good and bad land at that price.

The Wesleyan community of this City have, as their superintendent, Dr. Ritchie. The reverend gentleman has returned to a circle over which he presided thirty-five years ago, and the great changes which have taken place in Prince Edward Island, during this long period, were alluded to with much feeling by the venerable Doctor on Sunday evening last.

The steamer "Princess of Wales" towed out of this port on Tuesday morning last the new bark "Undine," Kichham, master, for Liverpool. This vessel was built at Summerside last winter for the Hon. James C. Pope, and is intended as a regular trader between this port and Liverpool. The "Undine" is a handsome little bark, elliptical stern, strongly built, well equipped, and fitted out with all the modern improvements in ship building. Her cabins are spacious, and handsomely fitted up for the accommodation of passengers.

The Wesleyan ladies will have a public tea meeting on Wednesday the 17th, on the grounds of Mr. William Mutch, near Southport wharf, in aid of the Wesleyan Chapel, now in course of erection at Mount Herbert.

The covering on the top of Pownall Wharf is in a wretched state of decay, and is dangerous to pass over after night. There are holes in it large enough to pass a man through, head, shoulders and all, to say nothing of innumerable smaller holes, large enough to admit the legs of a horse. We would suggest to the City authorities the propriety of at once filling up the holes and making the entire structure one solid mass of earth and stone; materials for the purpose can be obtained almost on the spot, by cutting down the street immediately in front of the residence of Mr. Purdie, until it intersects the Esplanade in front of the Barracks property.

The Age Old Story

And when they shall say unto you, Seek unto them that have familiar spirits, and unto wizards that peep, and that mutter: should not a people seek unto their God? for the living to the dead? To the law and to the testimony: if they speak not accordingly to this word, it is because there is no light in them.

Notes By The Way

"If an atomic bomb is exploded in your vicinity, stick your head between your knees," advises a civil defence authority. How can a person stick his head between his knees while running furiously?—Kingston Whig-Standard.

Considering the high cost of illness, a liniment every good for sore muscles! Perhaps we have not at last found an expert on irritated bivalves who can really tell us what sort of a noise annoys an oyster.—Hamilton Spectator.

A colleague reports a sign in a Barton Street store window advertising a liniment "very good for sore muscles!" Perhaps we have not at last found an expert on irritated bivalves who can really tell us what sort of a noise annoys an oyster.—Hamilton Spectator.

Dr. William Hornaday of the New York Zoo is quoted as saying that elephants are more intelligent than dogs. At least he never saw one chasing a car.—Hamilton Spectator.

Lord Simonds has been telling the Ottawa Canadian Club there is nothing queerer than the composition of the British House of Lords. He is wrong. The Canadian Senate is queerer.—Vancouver Province.

Anyone would agree that the field rations of World War II were far superior to those of World War I. Now comes the United States Marine Corps with new field rations which, it is said, will make it possible for Leatherneck cooks to prepare meals "just like mother used to make." With nothing but highest regard for the corps, and with no desire whatever to discourage enlistments, may we express a slight doubt?—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

People of foreign nations are often surprised at the intellectual maturity of young Frenchmen still at school and university. One reason may be that, compared with others, they do a lot of work and enjoy little play. This seems unbalanced to us. It is that even according to classic Greek principles, and it is to be noted that a leading characteristic of French education is its emphasis on Greek, Latin, philosophy and literature. Then, grading is highly competitive and permission even to sit for higher examinations is restricted. At the age of twelve a French child is expected to choose the direction of his future studies. He may take a two-year course of advanced elementary education, after which he may leave school and help on the farm, but even at that he must continue agricultural courses (home economics for girls)—or he may at fourteen enter a technical school or a factory where apprenticeship training is given. He may alternately at twelve go to the lycée (high school) or take two years preparing to enter a teachers' college.—Saint John Telegraph-Journal.

A people in search of their history make a picture of particular charm. Primitive man, engrossed in the daily search for food, is without knowledge of the past although he may be blighted with legend and hamstrung by taboos. An interest in history is the stirring of pride in ancestry in the association of the tribe or nation. We see this picture today in the Gold Coast, long a United Kingdom colony in Africa where wise administration hastens the natives towards absolute self-government. The Africans, taking over their own affairs, have begun their proposals for constitutional reform the plan that the name "Ghana" be henceforth used for their country as symbol of national unity and a link with past history. The fact that the link is rather slender makes no difference. The ancient kingdom of Ghana flourished somewhere between the fifth and 13th centuries and its achievements are hazy. But without being at all sure where the name "Canada" comes from we have become proud of it and we can believe that the future Ghana can afford to hold his head a bit higher than if he is forever condemned to "Goldcoaster."—Ottawa Journal.

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The Passing Scene

By Observer THE FIRST THANKSGIVING

The modern Thanksgiving Day is generally referred to as an American institution. In a purely physical sense it is, for the first time, observed on what is now ever, 1621, it was English soil, for the Pilgrims were English emigrants and the colony they established was the second permanent English settlement in North America.

It is probable that the Pilgrims brought with them remembrances of a very old English festival called Harvest Home which is still observed in many parts of the English countryside. A somewhat similar event was observed in Scotland under the name "Mell Supper."

I have not been able to find out the exact origin of this word "Mell". It may have had some distant kinship with the Latin "mel" (honey) or, as is more likely, with the Old English "melo" which was equivalent to our word "meal". Almost certainly I say it with respect, oat-meal would be an important part of any Scottish feast. There is no reason, however, why I should indulge in much speculation regarding it for I am sure there are any number of Scottish people on this island who can enlighten me or anyone who might be interested in the "Mell Supper". Come to think of it, the lady who writes interesting letters to this paper from Oakland, California, probably would be able to explain it in all its particulars.

If, as some historians claim, George Washington was the greatest Englishman of his day, then I would say that Governor Bradford, who presided over the first Thanksgiving feast, was a close second. His speech on that occasion was certainly prophetic. This is an excerpt from it: "Out of small beginnings great things have been produced; and, as one small candle may light a thousand, so the light here kindled hath shone to many, yea, in some sort to our whole nation."

And when, subsequently, the colony fell on hard times, we are told that one of the leaders "raised his voice and gave thanks cheerfully that they were permitted to suck of the abundance of the seas of the treasures hid in the sands." The "treasures hid in the sands" were clams, and that is the reason no doubt for the high popularity that that little shellfish still enjoys among New Englanders generally. It is a continuing symbol of the courageous spirit of the pioneers and, moreover, a symbol that can be turned, without too much trouble, into an appetizing reality.

In these days, when the United States and Canada have more wealth than they know what to do with, it is interesting and I think a little humiliating to take a retrospective look at the first Thanksgiving festival. The first corn crop had been safely harvested thanks to the friendly Indians who had showed the newcomers how to plant it and how to fertilize it by putting a fish in each hill. Just how the Indians themselves had made that important discovery in soil enrichment the record does not say; certainly they had no text-books on the subject. They must have happened on it by accident which has often been the forerunner of scientific advancement.

As was fitting these friendly Indians were invited to the big time and they did not come empty-handed. They brought deer meat and wild turkey. These latter were "wild" only in a technical sense. Actually, they were so tame that it was simply a matter of running up to them and seizing them by the neck (incidentally, I have been hoping for some years that our Hungarian Partridge would acquire a similar civilization but, alas, they appear to be getting wilder all the time.)

When all the guests had gathered—55 whites and 91 Indians—it was discovered that no house in the colony was roomy enough to hold them. So fires were built out-doors. This event has been memorialized ever since in the "clam-bake" which is most New Englanders is almost a religious rite. Once again history found a way to keep alive a tradition that had its origin in necessity. The turkeys, geese, ducks, and other sacrifices to hungry mouths and thankful hearts, were hung on poles and roasted over hot coals. This was the beginning of another tradition—the community barbecue—which has persisted in some sections to this day.

It appears from such records as are available that there was no formal Church service. In lieu of that prayers were said from time to time during the three-day festival and now and then one of the elders of the group rose to "say a few words" appropriate to the occasion. But the lack of formal preaching was made up in part by a great deal of serious chatter unassisted by any form of alcoholic beverage. One chronicler of the event, who lived near enough to it to have access to reliable hearsay, says that the only beverage was an unfermented one made from wild grape, a "most unsavoury cordial". That I can well believe.

An old picture shows an artist's conception of the first Thanksgiving. There are twelve persons in it including Governor Bradford. Four Indians, making up the advance party and led by their chief, Massasoit, are walking with dignity towards the table and the governor is pointing the chief to the place of honour. The chief himself, dressed in the very latest fashion, a la Wampanoag, is holding in his left hand a miniature pipe of peace bedecked with beads.

In the background is a member of the colony puffing away at a long and slender pipe often referred to, for reasons I have never seen explained, as a "church-warden". The women, four of them, are busy setting the table, glancing meanwhile at the redskins, and hoping, no doubt, that the governor had not made a mistake in inviting them.

A little girl is holding on to her mother's apron and staring in wonder at the gaudy finery of the visitors. Muskets, which the Pilgrims took with them everywhere, even to the Meeting House, are out of sight. They are probably within easy reach for all that.

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