

# The Guardian

"Covers Prince Edward Island Like the Dew"  
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"The strongest memory is weaker than the weakest ink."

TUESDAY, FEB. 28, 1956

## Tax Rental Agreements

The Prime Minister's letter to the Provincial Premiers on the Federal Government's tax rental proposals was published in summary form in The Guardian of February 23. Yesterday in the Legislature Premier Matheson tabled the letter along with the memorandum from the Minister of Finance. It holds out very little hope of obtaining any substantial increase in federal payments. To objections raised by the Premiers of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick and Saskatchewan, the Prime Minister indicated that there was already "a very substantial recognition of fiscal need involved in the equalization payments we have proposed, and also in the high level of returns in these tax fields which we are prepared to guarantee to provincial governments. These are, of course," he said, "in addition to the existing statutory subsidies which already make special provision for the fiscal need of the Atlantic Provinces. We believe we should all have some experience in the practical operation of these proposals before going on to consider other concepts of fiscal need."

Premier Matheson announced yesterday that he will attend a further conference on the tax agreements to be held at Ottawa on March 9. Doubtless we shall have a full explanation of the details on his return, as well as of the conference held last fall, and of the specific proposals made with reference to Prince Edward Island. It is to be hoped that he will have more encouraging information than is contained in the Prime Minister's communication tabled yesterday. As the Opposition leader has already pointed out, this Province faces a serious situation financially unless more revenue is obtained, and we have just claims to consideration which are not recognized under the existing agreements.

There is little point in elaborating on this subject until the budget has been brought down. It will be the most important matter to come before the House and it is to be hoped that the whole problem of our fiscal relations will be clarified at that time.

## Hospital Needs

In presenting his comprehensive report at the annual meeting of the Prince Edward Island Hospital last week, Dr. W. J. MacKenzie, Chairman of the Board of Trustees, referred to the urgent need for expansion of present facilities, especially in connection with what are called "primary services", which include kitchens, dining rooms, surgical section, power house, and laundry. As Dr. MacKenzie pointed out, the present building is 23 years old, and its facilities were intended to look after a 100 bed hospital instead of the 200 bed one which they must serve at the present time. Original plans called for a four storey structure. However, shortage of funds at the time made it necessary to cancel the proposed plan in favour of a cottage type building. This, in turn, has made it extremely difficult to make proper additions from time to time on a limited financial budget.

It is clear that this state of affairs cannot be permitted to continue, especially in view of an inevitable national health plan in which the Province will have to participate. This will mean a greatly increased demand for hospital services in one form or another for which the present building is most inadequate. The trustees are to be commended for stating the need and for deliberating on ways and means of meeting it without undue delay. Whether Provincial Government aid is forthcoming or not, a considerable amount of the money needed will have to be raised by public subscription. Dr. MacKenzie has placed this amount tentatively at about \$250,000. It is a fairly large sum for a small community to raise; but our people have never been slow in

rallying to good causes, and they can be expected to rally to this one wholeheartedly. In whatever they decide to do in this matter of necessary expansion, we bespeak for the trustees a full measure of public confidence.

## Riddle-Like Legislation

With a Presidential and Senatorial election only a few months in the offing American politicians are evidently casting discretion to the winds in trying to rig up some sort of legislation that might cool the anger of the farmers who are up in arms over declining farm income. As it stands, however, the proposed legislation, even if passed by Congress—which is doubtful—seems unlikely to pass the President's desk, for a more serio-comic piece of work would be hard to imagine. As recommended by the Senate Agriculture Committee, it calls for a return to rigid 90% farm price support—"parity" is the technical word—from the flexible support system which Eisenhower instituted on taking office.

The effect of this increase, if adopted, would be greatly increased production which, in turn, would mean bigger and bigger surpluses. But this is precisely what the administration wants to avoid; and to discourage over-production, without at the same time penalizing farmers, the administration's plan is to create "soil banks". In practice, this would mean that farmers would be paid so much for keeping a certain specified acreage out of profitable production and putting it in grasses, forest land, and other long term projects. Evidently trying to please everybody or at least trying to give that impression, the Senate Committee put this provision, too, into their bill, along with the increased price supports, although it can be plainly seen that one is the very antithesis of the other. In brief, farmers will be encouraged to increase production, and decrease it at one and the same time. This may seem simple enough to the politicians; but it is a safe bet that the farmers will find it bewildering.

## EDITORIAL NOTES

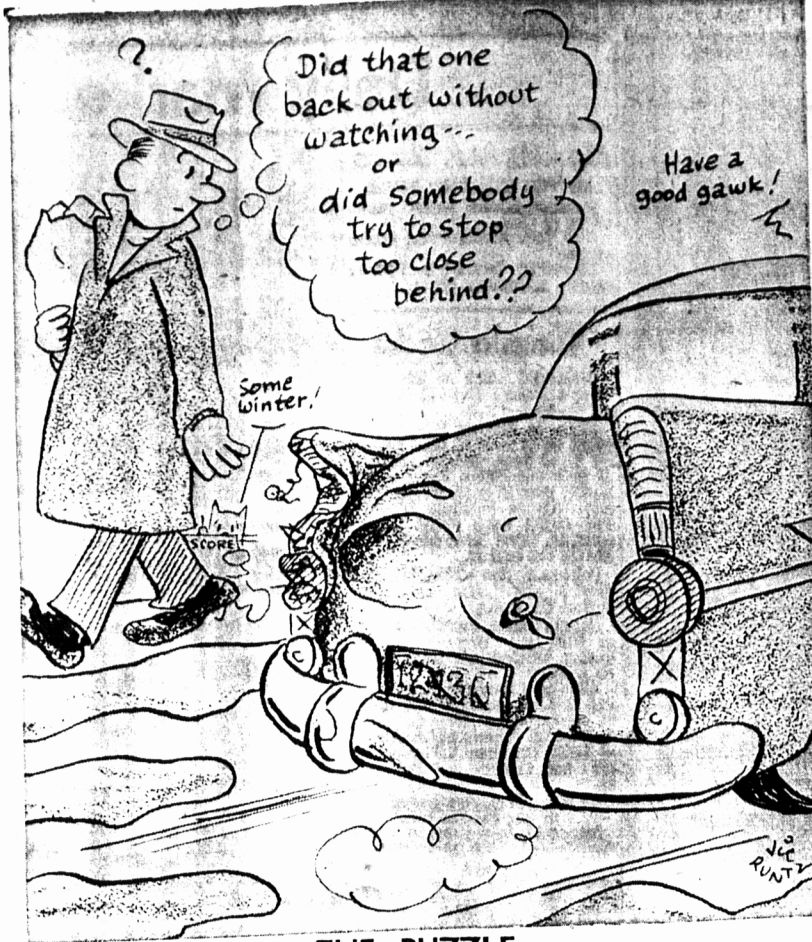
Apparently, it is only the big labour disputes that get in the news. Many others are settled before they have a chance to cause trouble. Last year, according to the head of the United State Federal Mediation service, more than 8000 disputes were settled by direct mediation and 6000 more by the parties involved with little or no outside help.

One of the late Senator Jones' achievements as Premier was the construction of the fine Technical School in Charlottetown. On Thursday evening a plaque will be unveiled at the School in honour of his memory. The ceremony will be attended by members of the Legislature and other citizens, and will conclude with an inspection of the building and a social hour.

The shocking news of the death by suffocation of 194 farm workers in Sudan, following their arrest and incarceration for refusing to deliver their cotton crop to warehouses, is reminiscent of the Black Hole of Calcutta, the infamous prison in which 146 English soldiers died from the same cause by order of the local nabob who had captured them during an insurrection, June 22, 1756.

The British plan for a withdrawal of one kilometer by the rival Arab and Israeli armies along the 1949 armistice lines, the resulting gap to be occupied by U. N. patrols, may be just what is needed in that troubled region. But with Israel calling up reserves for building air raid shelters and with partial Egyptian mobilization set for next week, it does not appear that either side will see much merit in the plan.

The so-called "fringe" countries—that is to say, the countries which are not quite sure whether they prefer democracy to some adaption of Soviet Communism—are not very powerful, as yet, in a military sense. In some phases of world economy, however, they are really important. The Middle East states, for example, produce almost one-quarter of the total production of oil. The Belgian Congo is the world's richest source of uranium, supplying at present over 50% of it. South East Asia accounts for the overwhelming proportion of crude rubber. Certain areas of India have almost a monopoly of thorium, the cheapest source of atomic power.



THE PUZZLE

## OTTAWA REPORT

### Mr. Sinclair's Recovery

By Patrick Nicholson

Man Friday no longer lives on Robinson Crusoe's island, I learn from a Cabinet Minister. But his kindly Voodoo priest must still be around that West Indian paradise. For Vancouver's Jimmy Sinclair has come back a mended man, after three weeks' nature treatment on the little tropical isle of Tobago.

"Daddy, it's good for you to bend now. Put your shoes on yourself." With that chorus, five little girls today reflect the recovery made by their father, the Minister of Fisheries.

Heather to Betsy, all five of them were a month ago lacking his shoes, and picking up books for him from the floor which he could not reach. But at last he really seems to be getting over the stiff legs and sore back resulting from his fall from a Communist platform down to Russian earth last August.

"I've turned the corner," he confidently assured me this afternoon, in his parliament office, where his cane stands discarded in a corner. Bathing four or five hours a day in the tepid Caribbean Sea, and sandbaking as long in the hot sun, have done this for him.

Thus ends the anxiety of Jimmy's friends, who feared that he would never be the same man again. They saw him half carried from aeroplane to ambulance, when he came back to Ottawa last fall, tired, jaundiced and in pain. And they frankly but silently wondered about the damage possibly done to his spine by the twenty foot fall.

THE JAUNDICED TOVARICH Today he revealed to me for the first time the real cause of his recovery. He had Russian jaundice, contracted by a transfusion of infected blood.

To call him Tovarich, he says, would be true in part: for his veins hold three pints of good red blood generously pumped into him from a Russian blood bank. But it was just one of those things: someone who had unselfishly contributed to that blood bank was, no doubt without knowing it, infected with jaundice.

It takes up to a year to get this out of the system, says the victim. The result, as far as he is concerned, was to stiffen his leg joints and to give him a good healthy nausea for liquor. He also contracted the usual symptoms. "I don't know whether it was the jaundice nausea, or professional

jealousy on the part of the Fisheries Minister. But I noticed marked distaste when he described to me the traditional breakfast of the workers in the darkest tropics. Around seven a.m. he told me, he had watched carefree darkies on their way to work. They would halt at a barrow in the street—the West Indian equivalent of our hot dog stand—to buy a one-penny fish float, a two-penny bun, and a three-penny slug of rum. The fish float and the bun are as like as not made of Newfoundland dried cod and prairie flour, the two staple West Indian purchases from Canada.

TRY THIS ON FATHER What's a fish float? you may ask. Nothing at all like a chocolate float, Junior. The Newfoundland cod is flaked, and moulded into little balls with onion and yam. These are fried in pans of deep fat over a charcoal brazier on the hawk's barrow. At a penny a time, these Twiggite fritters are the hot dogs of the West Indies.

This story reveals the restlessness of Jimmy's enquiring mind, and how he left Robinson Crusoe's island to take what he calls a busman's holiday.

To see what use is made of Canadian fish, he visited some larger islands—Trinidad, Barbados and Dominica-Hall. There he followed our fish exports from dock to dining table, at a camp up with some ideas for raising the saleability of cod and improving the handling of cod, alewives and blotters.

While in Tobago, Hon. J. Sinclair learned two important things. First, the taste of eating that delectable flying fish; second, the joy of sitting in three feet of water by a coral reef and, with goggled eyes under water, watching the multicolored procession of the glamorous tropical fish.

Strange, he mused, in Canadian lakes one would see a shoal of little fish, with a small mouth-bass or some fish of that size chasing them, then a muskellunge cutting the bass. But in the West Indies, big and small fish all swim around happily together, in enormous quantities and in perfect amity.

A sort of underwater "peaceful co-existence". Of course there is plenty of food for them all, without them destroying each other. All of which may point to a moral about our contributions to another of Jimmy's pet subjects, the Colombo Plan.

## Dr. Johnson's London House

National Geographic Society

Dr. Samuel Johnson's historic Gough Square house in the heart of London is getting a new lease on life.

Threatened with deterioration and even demolition by lack of upkeep funds, the home of the "Great Cham" of 18th-century literature will feature a basement coffee room to help meet expenses.

Thus London's 300-year-old institution for good talk—the coffee house—will carry on in appropriately mellow surroundings, says the National Geographic Society. It also will be easily accessible to 20th-century newsmen of the big publishing concerns in adjacent Fleet Street.

HOME NEAR PRINTER Dr. Johnson himself moved to Number 17 Gough Square to be near his printer. He lived there from 1748 to 1759, producing his monumental "Dictionary of the English Language," published in 1755; the tragic play, "Irene"; essays on manners and morals for his twopenny periodical, "The Rambler"; and other works. These creative years were for Johnson a period of ups and downs, professional and personal. Though he prospered at times, on one occasion he wrote a friend he had been arrested for a 5-pound, 18-shilling debt.

At the Gough Square house the blunt, untidy, but always stimulating master of letters spent many happy hours conversing with his dedicated circle of friends. There also he suffered the loss of his beloved wife, "dear Tetsy," who was 20 years his senior.

Today, the old house—which already had weathered decades when the Johnsons moved in—rises above its small court as impressively as it did in its heyday. Of substantial red brick, with three stories and an attic, it preserves a fragment of 18th-century living in the midst of modern London.

MANY INTIMATE RELICS Inside the shrine, Johnson's admirers from many lands find intimate reminders of him in books, portraits, furniture of the period, and articles that he used. One is the ivory-headed malacca cane he carried on strolls about the city. "When a man is tired of London," he once wrote, "he is tired of life." Johnson's roomy attic, where he labored on his Dictionary with the aid of six clerks (weekly wages, 23 shillings each), was set afire during one of the bombing raids of World War II. Repaired, painted and refurnished, the house was reopened to the public in 1948. The dwelling has survived many

## Medically Speaking

By Herman N. Sundesen, M. D.

### HAPPINESS INCREASES CHANCES FOR LONG LIFE

Be happy and live longer. Not only will happiness and contentment make your life more pleasant, but many doctors feel it actually will help increase your life span.

Unhappiness is thought to contribute to ill health. Emotional health, on the other hand, helps your body combat illness.

Simply by wanting to live you'll enhance your chances for a long life. In fact, an article in a recent issue of "The Catholic Digest," goes so far as to say "The will to live can override all but the final death sentence."

### CHEERFUL EMOTIONS

Termining cheerful emotions the first line of defense against illness, the article "Take It Easy, Live Longer" lists eight ways by which you can live longer and at the same time get more out of life. I think these rules are worth passing on.

1. Don't worry about your health. If you have aches and pains or other symptoms, see your doctor. If he says you're okay, believe him and be grateful.

2. Have fun. Play is one of the best ways of working off aggression. If you win at a game of golf or cards, you'll feel good. If you lose, you can shrug it off with "Oh, well, it's only a game."

3. Enjoy your work, but don't live only for your job. Your work must satisfy you, but not enslave you.

4. Conquer your work jitters. Be decisive, delegate those jobs you can and put tiny details in the street for proper perspective. Don't worry about minor crises; they'll be forgotten in a week.

5. Keep life simple. Quit wanting so much. Others are worse off than you. And if things are really so bad, quit moping, for there is something you can do about them.

6. Enjoy each moment and make the most of it right now. Develop an attitude of calmness and courage to see you through any really rough going that might lie ahead.

### FAMILY LIFE

7. Make your family life mutually enjoyable. You should feel that the family is an enterprise in which everyone takes a part. There must be mutual affection, equality and kindly cheerfulness.

8. Don't blow your top. Blowing off steam is almost sure to wreck something.

### QUESTION AND ANSWER

L. S.: Would a nervous stomach be the cause of a coated tongue?

Answer: So-called nervous stomach is not the cause for a coated tongue.

Coated tongue sometimes comes from constipation, while in many cases no cause for it can be discovered.

## Notes By The Way

Resurrection of the millinery atrocities of the '20's would be more startling if we hadn't been seeing 'em all along in the late movies. —Windsor Star.

Mob violence in Montreal is no new thing. In 1849 the Parliament Buildings there were burned; in 1917 there was a conscription riot; last winter a hockey riot, and now a riot over streetcar fares. Do the citizens just love a fight?—Niagara Falls Review.

Not one vote was cast at Muleshoe, Texas, in a plebiscite called to provide funds for improving county roads. Reason was a blizzard that dumped from 16 to 24 inches of snow over the county, blocking all roads and highways. We can feel for those snowbound folks in Muleshoe. A place with so extraordinary a name is not quickly forgotten.—Sydney Post-Record.

We hear a lot about "hooligans" these days, but how many know that the word originated from a family of that name? The Hooligans lived in Southwark, London, at the beginning of the 19th century. Their rough habits and daredevil deeds became a byword in the neighborhood. This notoriety spread until eventually the name "Hooligan" was applied to any rough or law breaking character. —Answers, London.

Too many people are killed by passing traffic while changing car tires. A reason for this needless loss of life seems to lie in the fact that people are afraid to drive a car even a few extra feet after a blow-out or puncture for fear of ruining the tire casing. Motorists are inclined to change tires right where they stop, on the edge of the highway or not. This is far from sensible. What tire casing is worth a life or even an injury? Motorists who must change tires should first remove their cars well clear of passing traffic.—Brookville Recorder.

Physicians are giving so much medicine hypodermically that nature will probably soon equip man's circulatory system with several conveniently located intake valves.—St. Catherine's Standard.

The tragedy of our times—and let us make no mistake, these are tragic days—lies in the mistaken philosophy that happiness lies in a multitude of possessions that save labor and provide effortless amusement. As a result, labor has lost its dignity and possessions any real value. Gone, too, is the pride in a job well done and the satisfaction that comes from having created something however simple. —Hamilton Spectator.

A high-school girl has written to S-nator Norris Cotton of New Hampshire asking him to help her assemble a pin-up collection of United States senators. "All my friends," she wrote, "are saving pictures of movie stars, and I want to be different, so please send me photos of 12 senators." "Please pick carefully," the young lady added, showing she has acquired some acquaintance with politics, since, as she observed, "even the best are sort of funny looking."—Christian Science Monitor.

How to get peers of the realm to attend sessions of the House of Lords is causing concern in Great Britain. Although the Lords have power to compel members to attend, this has not been exercised since 1841. In the 17th, 18th and first part of the 19th centuries, the Lords frequently issued writs of summons to compel members to take their seats. Now, they hope it will be done voluntarily. While it is understood many cannot attend there must still be a large percentage of the 846 who could get to Westminster for the sessions. Maybe it's like the Canadian Commons of Friday evening, when the Toronto, Quebec and other M.P.'s have taken off for home.—Windsor Star.

## The Poet's Corner

### THE TEACHER

A sculptor sees in marble block the form He will release, a teacher's art must find The gold in tons of silt, in baffling storm.

A trail to peace for some who travel blind. Her intuition must divine the tears That often lurk behind the mask, to sight.

Beyond the haze of time the gift of years. The yet unwoven pattern spins from light. She stands before her class an instrument

Of grace, a transient mother, humbly born. Not only of the great-to-be she sent Ahead, but of each weaker child, endowed.

By her with strength, each stumbling, awkward one. Each waif of night now turning to the sun.

—Elias Lieberman in the New York Times

## OUR YESTERDAYS

From The Guardian Files TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO (February 28, 1931)

On a four-year-old application Col. D. A. MacKinnon, D. S. O., Charlottetown, was today granted a patent for a means of neutralizing poisonous engine gases. He filed his application October 20, 1926. The patent has not been assigned for manufacture.

Citizens of Summerside today eagerly awaited the opening of four days' mail from Charlottetown and points east. Last Wednesday evening the foreign mail was brought up from Borden by team, after permission had been obtained from Mr. Weir at Charlottetown. The train which left Charlottetown on Monday finally arrived in Summerside Friday morning.

The most favourable balance of trade enjoyed by Canada in 1930 with a foreign community, was that with the French Islands of St. Pierre-Miquelon. Canadian exports to the islands increased by \$5,268,000 to \$10,203,000 last year, while imports from that area were valued at \$636,000.

## TEN YEARS AGO

(February 28, 1946) Urgent need of refrigerator cars for shipment of Island seed potatoes was emphasized in the Legislature today by Mr. Heath Strong. He asked the Premier if he was aware that Island potato dealers are faced with a loss almost as serious as occurred two years ago, unless they can get their seed shipped without delay.

Three former Prince Edward Island teachers are at present on the staff of Mount Allison. They are Miss Constance MacFarlane, M.A., Charlottetown; Alden Leard, B.A., Bedeque and John C. Matthews, B. A., Elmsdale.

The egg and poultry market report shows that production has increased over last week and prices have advanced. Station quotations for ungraded eggs delivered are: A large, 30-33 cents; A medium, 28-30; B, 23; C, 18. Graded eggs delivered at Charlottetown: A large, 34-35 cents; A medium, 32-35; B, 28; C, 23.

other experiences and hazards. After Johnson left, it was rented "in lodgings to respectable gentlemen." It became a small hotel; then was occupied by a printing company. Neglected and badly in need of repairs, it was finally bought in 1912 by a public-spirited citizen, Cecil Harmsworth, who renovated it and gave it to the government, with a small maintenance fund, as a household museum to Johnson's memory. The current project to save the Gough Square home once more by coffee-room proceeds recalls Dr. Johnson's own words: "No, sir! there is nothing which has yet been contrived by man by which so much happiness is produced as by a good tavern or inn."

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