

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 TUESDAY, NOV. 3, 1953

Maintaining Island Prestige

Prince Edward Island farm exhibitors have gotten away to an excellent start at the Maritime Winter Fair, as evidenced in the detailed reports of their achievements appearing in our issues of today and yesterday. A Spring Valley farmer has been proclaimed potato king, and a young lady from Margate has been crowned queen of the Fair; but all along the line, in livestock, grain, vegetable and other exhibits, our producers are making enviable scores, winning honours for themselves and enhancing the reputation of their Province. The Maritime Fair is yearly attracting greater interest throughout Canada, and the fact that Prince Edward Island continues to set the pace is a matter of pride and satisfaction.

The Fair has been held now for several years at Amherst, but the directors might well give consideration to the idea of holding it occasionally in this Province. Our own Provincial Exhibition is admittedly the best of its kind in the Maritimes, requiring special arrangements to meet the extra transportation needs of visitors and competitors from the mainland. At present special daily trips of the car ferry are being made to accommodate the Island traffic to Amherst. The reversal of this traffic would present no great difficulty, and no doubt a large number of mainland exhibitors would welcome the opportunity of visiting us at this season. Certainly, with the projected plans for a new main building and other improvements at our Exhibition grounds, the Maritime Fair would find an ideal alternative home in our Island capital.

Islamic Republic

On Monday Pakistan's constituent assembly voted for that country being an "Islamic republic", a surprising decision in the light of recent official reports which have laid emphasis on the secular character of the state. It is reported that Hindu members of the constituent assembly, which is identical in membership with that of Parliament, walked out in protest against the recommendation. The term is now incorporated in the draft constitution which will be submitted to the Parliament of Pakistan for ratification.

India is already a republic, of course, and has remained within the Commonwealth. Pakistan has given no indication of her intentions in that matter, although a proposed amendment to add the words "outside the Commonwealth" was turned down by the constituent assembly. It is to be hoped that the new republic, when formed, will see her way clear to remain associated with the nations of the Commonwealth. There is much which each can do for the others in the future as in the past and it would indeed be a pity if that long association were to be brought to an end.

Pakistan was so long politically joined to India and to the Commonwealth and Empire that the severance has been a shock to her economy as well as to political institutions. The Government has made determined efforts to industrialize the country but those efforts will be infinitely more difficult unless close co-operation is attained with India in particular and the Commonwealth in general.

Tariff Policies

The outspoken support for protection which has been a notable feature of public affairs in the United States recently has caused uneasiness, to say the least, in this country. In an address to the Canadian Club in Ottawa, the United States ambassador was inclined to brush rather lightly aside the complaints of Canadians as to the trade policies of his country, says the Citizen. At that time Mr. Douglas Stuart suggested that Canadians hadn't really been hurt by restrictions imposed during the past year or so, nor need they worry unduly about current threats because these had not materialized. His thesis, in effect, was that Canadians are over-sensitive and too prone to take alarm.

Meanwhile, a New York Times reporter, Raymond Daniell, has been sampling Canadian opinion for his newspaper, and has discovered why Canadians continue to harbor doubts on the score of U. S. policy. From Winnipeg, he writes:

It is not so much that Canada has been seriously hurt as that the people of this region, as well as others with specialized

interests, fear for the future economic policy under a Republican administration, which is still identified here with a policy of high protective tariffs. There is a definite feeling, frequently expressed, that the United States does not yet understand or appreciate Canada's new economic and strategic importance.

This is an accurate expression of a feeling which is held widely across the country. A capable reporter from the U. S. has had no difficulty in finding it out. But it may still be questioned whether men in official positions, since the new administration took over, have mingled sufficiently with people in various parts of Canada to gather equally valid impressions.

Westminster Abbey

A comprehensive scheme of restoration and repair is being undertaken at England's Westminster Abbey. Mr. Stuart Wyton visited the Abbey recently, reports the Winnipeg Free Press. Reviewing the present condition of the building he observed that some of its stones have holes big enough to put a fist in, the surface of others flakes off at a touch and old prints show that in the last century decay has rendered some of the carving unrecognizable. Mr. Wyton examined part of the building's exterior and found it in a sad state of decay, with the stonework cracked and crumbling in many places.

These stones will either have to be replaced or, where they are not too badly worn, treated with limewash to harden them; the roof of the nave must be stripped and its lead tiles recast and no one knows yet whether the timbers beneath will be found free from the death-watch beetle.

Inside the Abbey, too, much cleaning must be done for the walls and sculpture are very dirty and the leeway lost during the war years has never been made up because the maintenance staff now at work there is sadly reduced. If all goes well and no further damage is discovered it is hoped that the Abbey will be open again by the middle of November.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Flushing was captured this date 1944 by British commandos from the sea and Canadians who stormed the causeway.

Prince Edward Island Day at the Maritime Winter Fair is supposed to be Wednesday but what with having Islanders named as Queen of the Fair and Potato King as well as taking first, second and third for standard bred mares, this Province seems to have jumped the gun.

The Canadian Army has expressed gratitude to the Canadian Legion for donations of books, magazines and periodicals supplied to troopships carrying Canadian soldiers to and from Europe. Legionnaires are well acquainted with the reception that such reading material from home receives from men in the restricted accommodation of shipboard.

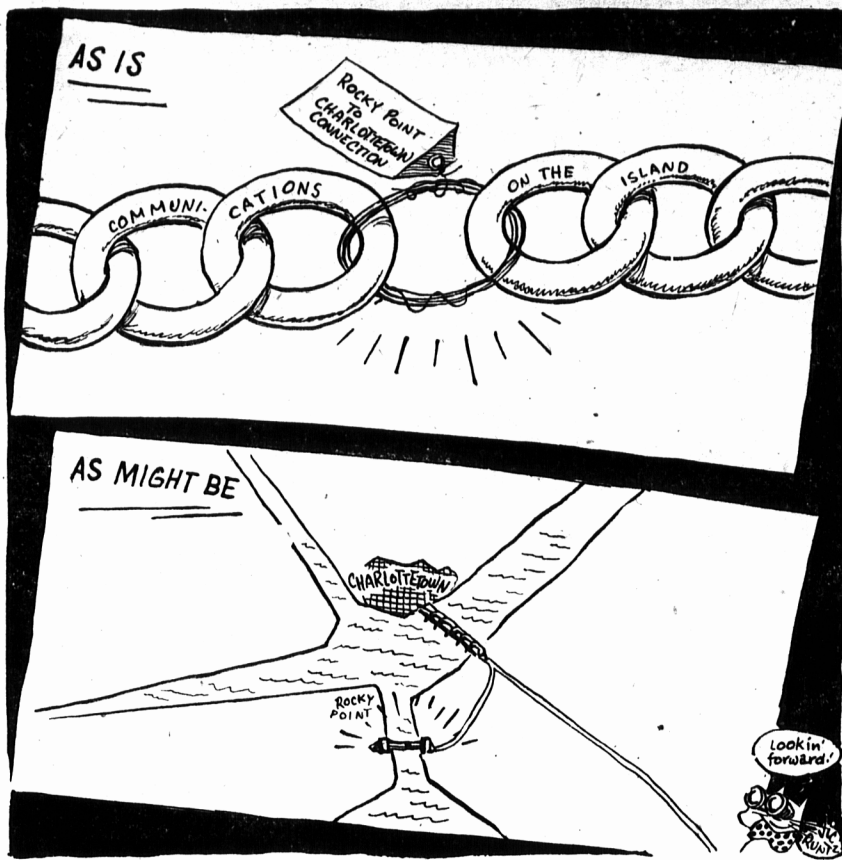
A good wife is worth \$69,000 to a farmer, a Women's Institute convention was told recently in Ontario. The estimate was claimed to be based on a careful survey by an agricultural economic expert. A marriage license would certainly seem to be a good investment in these days of low interest rates. The question, of course, is whether or not it is gilt edged.

The Fisheries Council of Canada has received with approval a request from the Department of Fisheries for co-operation in making a survey of plants now producing fish for inter-provincial or international trade. The objective is an improvement in quality standards and inspection of fish generally. It is hoped that the data will be ready for assessment by January 31st.

Henry Ireton, Parliamentary general, was born this date 1611. A student of law and son-in-law of Cromwell, he acquired great influence in the Parliamentary party. At the outbreak of the Civil War he was nominated captain of a troop of horse and fought at Edgehill and Bristol. He signed the warrant for execution of Charles I. Subsequently he acted as Cromwell's deputy in Ireland and died of fever while besieging Limerick.

The new Coventry Cathedral, now being built, will have 28 bronze maple leaves set in stones making up the aisles. This comes as the result of a walk taken by the architect, Mr. Basil Spence, in Montreal recently. Mr. Spence was walking along a street when he noticed some maple leaves studded in the sidewalk. "It suddenly occurred to me that Canada should be represented in the new building," he says. The material for the emblems will be obtained in Canada, thus making "a bit of Canada for people to see right down the ages."

Looking At That Link



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.

POOL MARKETING INFORMATION

Sir—Your October 31 issue contained a four column article headed in rather prominent type, "Pertinent Questions and Answers on Pool Marketing of Potatoes". I take it for granted that your Company is assuming the responsibility for the accuracy of the information supplied, there being nothing to show otherwise.

Am I correct in my assumption? I am Sir, etc. AUSTIN A. SCALES. Freetown, P.E.I.

(The article in question was an advertisement inserted by the Potato Marketing Board Sales Agency—Ed.G.)

UNREST AMONG TEACHERS

Sir—It is a restless age; and it is natural to expect that teachers should be infected by the disease. But in this area its effects are more serious. It indicates, in general, a disturbed condition of mind; and this states reacts upon the school. The teacher should be a happy person. She is doing the most important work carried on for our society, laying foundations for the building of a Christian civilization. It is the larger home in which children are trained to be good citizens. This motive should give inspiration to every teacher of children. She needs to be contented and happy for her own sake, for teaching is a very taxing business, physically and mentally. The school itself needs a happy teacher.

It is no wonder that teachers are restless, moving, as they do, from one district to another every year or two. The status of the teacher in the district, and the limited salary she gets do not encourage her to remain at a school until she has made a permanent impression for good upon her pupils. A competent, consecrated teacher, staying on her job long enough, will put her stamp upon the school that will make it outstanding.

There has just come into my hands an account of a public meeting gathered to mark the retirement of a head-teacher who had given thirty-three years of continuous service in that school. I know the teacher and the school quite well. The Canadian Mission in Trinidad has seventy schools, all quite large, varying in average attendance from 100 to 400. The government pays the teachers a good salary and the Mission bears all other expenses. The teachers are well trained and are expected to make teaching a life work, though, of course, not bound to do so. A residence is provided for the head-teacher on the school grounds at a nominal rental. Both the government and the Mission, (and in Trinidad there are R. C., Anglican, Methodist, Baptist and Moravian church schools, as well as purely government schools) make every effort to see that the teacher gets every possible chance to do his best work.

So long a period as head-teacher in one school as above-mentioned is due to the fact that right up to retirement his services were very satisfactory, as testified by the government inspector, the warden of the district, the county councillor and others at the meeting. The point I am making is that teachers in those schools are encouraged to stay as long as their work is efficient and satisfactory. A ten year period is quite common for a head-teacher.

Here in this Province, the majority being women, it is much more difficult for teachers to remain in their schools for longer periods. But not many are giving up to

Notes By The Way

Why is it that moths never make the mistake of eating a patch? —Kitchener-Waterloo Record.

Turnips at Ayr, Ontario, are selling for 35 cents a bushel and dressed up under the name of rutabagas they are selling seven cents a pound in the States, around \$3.50 a bushel. It is a nice trick when they can get away with it; does the name make the turnip taste or cook better? —St. Catharines Standard.

The words "London" and "fog" seem inseparable. The combination has always been a romantic one, from the paintings of the link boys of olden times, leading horsemen about the streets by torchlight, to Sherlock Holmes and Scotland Yard carrying out their mysterious errands under cover of the impenetrable dark. The London fog, however, has come to mean something more than romance to Londoners. The fog traps the impurities in the soot coal that is burned everywhere and holds the harmful gases of a million chimneys-pots close to earth, where Londoners breathe. The old theory that evil lurks in darkness has thus been shockingly borne out.

Last December, the dense fog which closed down on the city, soaking up its soot, directly caused the deaths of 4,000 old and ill people. The deadly mixture killed them. Now, a committee representing 6,000 London doctors has advised the city, that if no Government measures to reduce the smog menace are taken, the people of London must be ready to protect themselves. They recommend gaseous "smog masks" to be worn as breath-filters, if the smog should close down on the city again.—Montreal Gazette.

Old Charlottetown

(And P. E. I.)

SCHOOL DISTRICT NAMED

"A public meeting of inhabitants of Lots 11 and 12 was held last evening at the house of Mr. Hugh Callaghan, on the Main Westport Road, for the purpose of applying to the Board of Education to form their settlement into a School District, and giving a name to the same; when, after several names had been proposed and rejected, that of Inverness was unanimously adopted. John Campbell, secretary of meeting." —The Islander, Oct. 28, 1864.

The Poet's Corner

SONNET

I live on hope and that I think to all Who come into this world, and since I see Myself in swim with such good company, I take my comfort whatsoever befall. I bide and abide, as if more stout and fall My spirit would grow by waiting like a tree; And, clear of others' toll, it pleases me In dreams their quick ambition to forestall. And if thro' careless eagerness I slide To some accomplishment, I give my voice Still to desire, and in desire abide. I have no stake abroad; if I rejoice In what is done or undone, I confide Neither in friend nor foe my secret choice. —Robert Bridges.

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The Passing Scene

By Observer THE DRUIDS, MAGI, AND CELTS

In view of the fact that the origin of present-day Halloween nonsense has now been traced back to the Druids it occurred to me that perhaps a few paragraphs on that ancient group might not be out of place this week. Actually, there is no great fund of information concerning them available but there is enough fact and near-fact to warrant our numbering them among the ultra-strange religious cults of history.

Some historians say that the name applied to a whole sect, but I believe the more common opinion is that it was given only to the ecclesiastical heads. Whether these were priests, magicians, or just dancing masters, is another question which has never been satisfactorily answered. It doesn't matter much anyway.

Their religious rites were apparently exciting affairs, what with dancing in the woods and groves for weeks at a time and whipping one another into frenzies and, in some instances, convulsions. All for the glory of a goddess who, according to at least one reference on the subject, was in the habit of sleeping all through the festivities. Of course there was a great deal more to their rites and ceremonies than dancing and whipping, but just what the additional exercises amounted to is not reported in detail in anything that I can find on the subject. There are dark hints and there but none that might be interpreted as admissible evidence.

There have been attempts made to link the Druidic rites historically with those practised at about the same general period by the Persian Magi, sometimes referred to as the "wise men from the East". The attempts, however, have not been successful and, for one, hope the situation will stay that way. The Magi were magicians, too. In fact our word "magic" comes from that source. But, somehow, their brief but honourable mention in the Biblical story of the Nativity would naturally lead us to suppose that they were much more serious in their religion and more profound in their philosophy than were the Druids.

In fact, the principal theologian of the Magi, Zoroaster, was a man of very high calibre indeed. Although he lived and taught for more than a thousand years before the beginning of the Christian era some of his teachings were singularly Christian in tone and content. He held belief in the existence of one God, immortality, final judgment, the bodily resurrection, and the ultimate triumph of good over evil. He spoke even of the coming of Christ.

The Zend-Avesta, the sacred writings of the Magi, has been called a close second to the Bible in high moral teachings. Certainly, the Druids had no such prophetic dreams and no one like Zoroaster to inspire them. And they had no such moral goal to ward which to strive.

It would be impossible to assess the value of Celtic contributions to the world's culture and, in any case, it would not be proper for one who is not of Celtic origin to essay the task. That it is very considerable, however, will be universally admitted. And, perhaps, I might be permitted to suggest that the decline in "the Gaelic", that very intriguing dialect of the Celtic language, which has taken place in this part of the world in recent years, signifies a distinct loss to our nation's culture. Perhaps it is too late to do much about it now, and yet it ought to be possible to devise ways and means of helping small groups of young people of Celtic background to an understanding of their mother tongue.

I say "of Celtic background" advisedly, for to those of other racial origins it would be, normally, a fruitless undertaking, although I do know one man, with out a trace of Celtic ancestry, who took up the study of Gaelic in middle life and learned to speak it with precision. But, then, he was born that way, and probably could pick up Sanskrit in a few, short, easy lessons.

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