

THE GUARDIAN

Authorized as Second Class Mail Post Office Department, Ottawa. The Island Guardian Publishing Co. President and Associate Editor, 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, MAR. 10, 1953

Current Health And Welfare

Two reports of the Department of Health and Welfare were tabled in the House yesterday. The usual annual report for the year ending last March 31st and an interim report bringing health activities up to December 31. This is the first time that such recent information has been made available to our legislators since the changing of the fiscal year. In the past it has been customary to present to the Legislature at the annual spring session a report which encompassed the previous fiscal year. It was felt that such a report was outdated at the time of presentation and did not give a true picture of recent happenings in the Health Department. Consequently this interim report has been prepared. It represents an effort which will be appreciated by all interested.

Some sixty-nine cases of poliomyelitis and two deaths from this disease occurred. Cases were reported between May and November with September as the peak period. It would seem that doctors are working in very well with the Department because many mild cases are included in the reports which would have been overlooked a few years ago.

Public interest in cancer control facilities is not as great as the Department could wish but increasing numbers are taking advantage of the facilities offered. Interest in dental health precautions, too, seems to vary with the economic status of parents. The Department now provides treatment for grade I pupils in the hope of stimulating continued care. Sodium fluoride application in Charlottetown is designed to similarly impress the need for continued attention.

The system of a Provincial Laboratory and Branch Labs is on an ambitious scale and has done much to improve the diagnostic services available to the family physician.

Advances have been made in the fields of preventive psychiatry and mental health generally; nutrition; public health nursing; sanitary engineering (the quality of pasteurized milk far surpassed that of any previous year); tuberculosis control; use of new drugs and surgery resulted in more rapid turn-over of patients; and the rate of venereal disease remains at a low level. No less than 69 accidental deaths in 1952, 26 due to motor vehicles and the death of 81 children under one year of age indicate that much remains to be done in these fields.

Civic Boundaries

Lengthy excerpts from the report of Judge Trainor, acting as Commissioner to inquire into the Parkdale water supply problem, appear in today's issue and will doubtless be studied with close attention. The Commissioner found it necessary to broaden the scope of his inquiry to include the Spring Park area as well. A portion of this area as well as that of Parkdale is involved in his recommendation, that these sections be included, by legislation, within the boundaries of the City of Charlottetown as the only satisfactory solution to the problem occasioned by the lack of a safe water supply. He suggests, however, that a special survey be made of the detailed problems before legislation is enacted.

The Commissioner sets forth his findings at length, and his reasons for coming to the conclusion that extension of the City limits is necessary and desirable. He anticipates opposition on this ground, but the controversial nature of the question has not deterred him from plain speaking. His findings appear to be fully warranted, and it is to be hoped that the long-range view, which he emphasizes time and again as the most important factor, will be borne in mind by the Legislature when it comes to deal with this question.

University Survey

A survey just completed by the Federal Department of Labor shows that in the past thirty-two years, university attendance in Canada has increased 175 per cent. Part of the increase can be attributed to the bigger population of Canada, but this is by no means the full explanation. For it was shown that in the same 32-year period the section of the population in the age group 18 to 22, the group which includes

most college students, had increased by only 45 per cent.

Hon. Milton Gregg, the Minister of Labor, observes that with the increased emphasis on industrial production has come a greater use of technological processes. And these processes demand a higher proportion of professionally trained personnel in the labor force.

The increased enrolment is not confined to the universities alone. High school attendance has also increased 150 per cent in the 32-year period. Meanwhile the age group 13 to 17 which supplies most high school students has increased by only 29 per cent.

The marked transformation in the occupational character of Canada's labor force was brought out in the survey. The labor force has tripled in the past 50 years. And now the manufacturing industries employ more workers than all the primary ones like lumbering and mining. This is a complete reversal of the pattern of relatively few years ago. The change has an important influence on the utilization of university trained workers, particularly those in engineering and natural science.

The trend of the past half century cannot be considered to have run its course. On the contrary, as scientific and technological processes become more complicated and their use more widespread, an increased percentage of the labor force will be required to have university training. The survey showed that a major concern of industrial leaders now is to keep the flow of properly trained young people level with advances in production methods.

EDITORIAL NOTES

The landing of a Russian Mig 15 jet fighter in Denmark will enable British technicians to discover what the Soviet experts have been able to develop from the jet fighter models the British sold to Russia a few years ago.

A curiosity of the new Soviet central committee is that L. P. Beria, head of the political police, is now Minister of the Interior and of State Security, authorities to whom he was formerly responsible. In other words he is now his own boss.

Two Islanders will be in the third trans-Atlantic flight of Sabre jet fighters which will bring Canadian strength in Europe to nine squadrons. It will not be long before jet-engined flights across the ocean will be as commonplace as a visit to town on Saturday night.

Lloyd's of London, the insurance market place for all the world, is ready to cover all the triumphs and disasters of Coronation year. The 3,000 underwriters of Lloyd's are prepared to cover postponement of the Coronation itself. They quote a flat seven pounds 10 shillings per 100 pounds against it not taking place in June.

The American B-29, the Super-fortress of World War II fame, is going out of production. As the B-29 it would never have captured popular imagination as it did. It was one of the early American aircraft to receive a distinctive name such as R. A. F. Hurricanes and Spitfires had long enjoyed.

The Agricultural Council was successful in having the use of only new bags adopted for the shipment of potatoes. They adopted a resolution, however, at their recent meeting which might not present regulations of much of their value. Deploring the dirtying of new bags by use in the field they at least imply that the farmer should use old bags at that stage of operations.

John Benbow, English vice-admiral, was born this date 1653. He spent his whole life in active service at sea. Near Jamaica he attacked a French squadron far superior in numbers to his own; his leg was broken by a shot, but he sat on deck to take charge of the attack; he was defeated owing to the want of support from other officers; he returned to Jamaica, the officers were punished and Benbow died of his wounds.

Allowing oil companies to deduct the cost of drilling and exploration from their taxable income is a very special privilege extended to encourage the rapid expansion of oil production in this country. The question of what is capital investment and what is an expense, however, is extremely difficult to answer. The Agricultural Council's proposal that the cost of clearing land for agricultural use be allowed as a deduction could be adopted on similar grounds of policy or on ordinary principles of accounting it could very often be considered an expense of operating a farm or producing the income. In such circumstances it would be deductible under present law.

Out To Stop Him



The Poet's Corner

THE DEAF GARDENER

For him, time Is not the ticking of a clock, But the silent moving of the sun Across the sundial of his mind; The blowing garden Is a pantomime.

Air moves with him As water parted by a swimmer; The fountain at his touch Mutely blooms and dies; Birds are as voiceless As butterflies.

Sound does not devour Either his touch or sight. He hears what blind men see at night: The Word made flesh And flower.

—Jean Burden, in the Virginia Quarterly Review.

Old Charlottetown

ANNEXATION RUMOR

"A rumour has been in circulation here for some days past, that His Majesty's Government had in contemplation to annex this Island to the Government of Nova Scotia, and we have seen a private letter received by the last packet, which puts it beyond doubt that there was some intriguing going forward in certain quarters, for the accomplishment of some such object. What the views of Government may be, we have no opportunity of knowing; but the warmest admirers of Ministers must acknowledge, that their favours and chastisements were dispensed somewhat capriciously. were they, at the very moment, when with one hand they were conferring a Constitution on Newfoundland, with the other, to deprive us of that Constitution which we had enjoyed for upwards of half a century, and under which the country had prospered, to a degree almost beyond belief, considering the disadvantages it has laboured under from the present tenure of landed property." —The Royal Gazette, Sept. 18, 1832.

Land Sighted Due North (Financial Post) Considering that Canada has been a next-door neighbor of the United States ever since there was a United States, and that during almost all of that time we have been a very large purchaser of American products, the suddenness and impassioned character of the present American interest in this country is a little overwhelming. Its latest manifestation is a New York Town Hall series of six weekly lecture sessions. These have been in response to a suggestion from the Chancellor of New York University, and will be participated in by a highly representative list of Canadian experts and executives.

This follows a long series of special issues and special articles in innumerable United States periodicals all devoted to explaining Canada to their readers. One would almost suppose that the border had been crossed by an adventurous exploring party from Buffalo for the first time a few weeks ago, and that Lester Pearson, Leonard Brookington, John Diefenbaker and a few other natives had been seized and carried off to New York as examples of the indigenous population. We are not complaining about this spasm of interest. It is hard to understand, it is not at all hard to take. It may eventually have very good results — even, perhaps, the good result of convincing Americans that there is no longer much to be gained by continuing to insist that imports into the United States from Canada

Notes By The Way

Jim Jeffries, once heavyweight champion of the world, is dead in California, aged 77. He had been little in the news since 1910, when Jack Johnson defeated him in his last fight, but always he will have an honorable place in the books of the pugilistic records. — Ottawa Journal.

In all the voluminous literature of trees perhaps the most direct and practical sentence was penned two centuries ago by the Swedish botanist, Carolus Linnaeus. "If a tree dies," he admonished, "plant another in its place." — Winnipeg Free Press.

A railroad man in Kansas demanded additional personal income tax exemption on the ground that he was a bigamist maintaining two establishments and two wives, one at each end of the line. The Internal Revenue Bureau decreed that the possession of more than one wife is not a necessity, but a luxury, and therefore taxable. — New York Times.

A Newfoundland sawmill operator needed eight men to complete a logging team and offered an assured minimum return of \$0 a day with the prospect for experienced men of earning much more. He could get no applicants for the jobs although there were several men available in the community. This was an experience which, to put it mildly, he found most discouraging. — St. John's (Nfld.) News.

Evidence comes that the new armored apparel worn by UN troops in Korea, is saving lives. Two U. S. soldiers wearing the army's armored shorts were hit last Friday night by shell fragments that would have caused serious wounds if the armored shorts had not stopped them. It was the first reported combat test of the armored shorts. They were designed to give the same protection as already provided by armored vests. — Sydney Post-Record.

Prof. G. P. Murdoch, an anthropologist of Yale University, has lately pronounced the witch doctor's art to be in fact "the oldest profession in the world." The professor has studied the cultural history of more than 250 tribes all over the world, and has found that all primitive tribes have their witch doctors, or medicine-men. These individuals do not confine themselves to the practice of phys-

ic medicine, but they also must be in the rawest possible form. This country now lies to a large extent right between the United States and its one serious potential enemy. The stronger it is, the larger and more defense-capable its population, the safer will the United States be, and at considerably less expense.

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The Passing Scene

By Observer MORE ABOUT READING

In my own experience I have come across a lot of people whose formal schooling stopped very early in life but who, nevertheless, seemed to have a great love for reading and used good taste in their selection of reading material. On the other hand I have known many graduates of secondary schools and colleges who appear to have had no interest whatever in serious reading. One wonders what other advantage could possibly make up for this lack. No doubt a man could make a living without having much to do with books, but it is difficult to see how he could live a full life without what Andrew Lang, in referring to love of reading, called "the golden key that opens the enchanted door."

And it is an enchanted door that this key opens. The door to a new world which anyone may explore for himself with a little effort that is part work and part play. This is recreation in the finest and most meaningful sense of the word. Moreover, it is one sphere of life where familiarity does not breed contempt. The more one reads, the more one enjoys reading. The farther one goes in this new world of thought and light, the greater urge one has to travel still farther on. One evidence of this ever increasing interest is found in the testimonials of those whose lives were centered in literary pursuits and who never tired of passing through one enchanted door after another. The fact that they themselves were distinguished literary artists did not keep them from making acquaintance with the works of others who had received "the stamp and esteem of the ages." Wordsworth wrote: "Books are yours, Within whose silent chambers treasure lies Preserved from age to age; more precious far Than that accumulated store of gold And orient gems which, for a day of need, The Sultan hides deep in ancestral tombs. These hoards of truth you can unlook at will!"

And long before his time, the Roman philosopher Cicero put an equally zealous testimony, in equally fascinating words: "Books are the food of youth, the delight of old age; the ornament of prosperity, the refuge and comfort of adversity a delight at home, no hindrance abroad; companions by night, in travelling, in the country." Henry Ward Beecher, one of the foremost religious thinkers of the last century, put books very high in his calendar of good things "A book," he said, "is a garden, an orchard, a storehouse, a party, a company by the way, a counsellor, a multitude of counsellors." One of his contemporaries, James Freeman Clarke, went even further in his philosophic treatment of the same subject. "When I consider what books have done for the world, and what they are doing, how they keep up our hope, awaken new

courage and faith, soothe pain, give an ideal life to those whose hours are cold and hard, bind together distances and foreign lands, create new worlds of beauty; bring down truth from heaven; I give eternal blessings for this gift, and thank God for books." Anthony Trollope, who was reputed to be the most prolific novelist of the 19th century, and whose works have enjoyed a revival of interest in recent years, thought that love for good books was an asset that would never fail to pay good dividends. At least, one may gather as much from what he said about it. "Book love, my friends, is your pass to the greatest, the purest and the most perfect pleasure that God has prepared for His creatures. I will support you when all other means are gone." This may be a slight exaggeration but, if so, it will surely be overlooked.

Emerson was so taker with the importance of reading that he advised: "When you encounter a man of rare intellect, do not ask what schools he attended. Ask him what books he reads." Personally, of all the testimonials I have seen, I like this one by Goldsmith as well as any: "The first time I read an excellent book, it is to me just as if I had gained a new friend. When I read over a book I have perused before, it resembles the meeting with an old one!" But praise for books has not been confined to the literary great. These have been joined by soldiers, politicians, and statesmen. George Washington, who excelled in all three professions, once said: "I conceive that the knowledge of books is the basis on which all other knowledge rests." Frederick the Great was brief but positive in what he had to say in the matter: "Books make up no small part of human happiness."

Just where the average politician of today gets his knowledge I have no means of knowing. There are signs, however, to indicate that he does not burden himself heavily with knowledge of books. I say the "average" politician, because now and then, and sometimes in unexpected places, one is found who delights his colleagues and his constituents with knowledge and insight that only free an easy acquaintance with good literature makes possible. Such a man may or may not be particularly good at vote-getting but, in any case, he is a credit to any assembly of which he might happen to be a member.

I do not suggest for one moment that books be a proper substitute for pragmatic day-by-day interests in which every politician is bound to find himself involved. But I cannot help believing that such interests would be better served if they were seasoned a bit more generously with "the sober wisdom" that books can supply in abundance. From its most northerly point to the coast on the south, Western Pakistan covers nearly 800 miles. The royal palm tree is a feature of every landscape in Cuba.

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