

Covers Prince Edward Island Like the Dew... Published every week day morning at 160 Prince Street...

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

TUESDAY, MAY 8, 1956

Mr. Hammarskjold Returns

When the Secretary General of the United Nations went to the Middle East to seek a solution of the problems there, he was given no more than a 50-50 chance of success...

War is, of course, still possible; and if Israel persists in her intention to divert the waters of the Jordan, matters are almost certain to take another turn for the worse.

Mr. Pearson and NATO

It will be recalled that when the North Atlantic Treaty Organization was organized the name of Canada's External Minister Pearson, among others, was mentioned for the important post of Secretary-General.

It has to be said, though, that for all its importance, the NATO office is largely a matter of routine administration with little or no connection with policy making.

In the meantime he has been appointed one of three NATO foreign ministers to devise a new strategy for countering the Kremlin switch to "soft" tactics.

out a batch of proposals on political co-operation and economic aid to win the neutral third of the world to the West. They have been termed the "three wise men," but Mr. Pearson wryly suggests that in the end they may come to be dubbed "the three blind mice."

Welfare In Sweden

Wilfred Fleischer, an American diplomat in Stockholm, has written an interesting book on Swedish welfare benefits. Entitled "Sweden: the Welfare State", it is published by John Day.

One gathers from the book that Sweden is far ahead of all other countries, even Britain, in social legislation, and it is the only country in the world that spends more money annually on social services than on military defence.

All public utilities are owned by the government and practically all the railroads, 90% of heavy industry, however, is under private control. Co-operatives have been developed very extensively.

EDITORIAL NOTES

The Travel Bureau is holding open house this week in connection with National Tourist Week. Continuous films are being shown at the Civic Centre booth and books and pamphlets are available for all interested.

The need for greater highway safety measures was emphasized over the past weekend, highway smashups being the main cause of at least twenty-seven accidental deaths during this brief period in eastern Canada.

One of the vital functions of Music Festivals, such as we are now enjoying in Charlottetown, is to stimulate interest in our heritage of the past. It is rich in beautiful melodies, which share our own frail mortality and die when they perish from our memories.

It is to be hoped that our hog breeders will keep continually before them the high quality standards that have won them such eminence throughout the continent.



DOWN TO EARTH

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.

BLOOD DONOR CAMPAIGN

Sir,—May I take this opportunity of expressing to you the very sincere thanks of the Charlottetown Blood Donor Committee, for the most excellent support and publicity which you gave the drive which has just concluded.

We would like, through you, to thank the many people and organizations whose faithful and enthusiastic interest in blood donor work, has made it a pleasure to carry out the duties of our committee. It is impossible to mention more than a few but in thanking them may I extend heartfelt thanks to all who assisted and to every person who contributed a donation of blood.

I would like to extend the special appreciation of the committee to the Canadian Legion and the Legion Auxiliary, the Armed Services of Charlottetown, the Ladies' Groups who assisted in serving and conducting the Clinics, the Automobile Dealers' Association, the Reece Bands, and the Queen Charlotte High School Bands, the Island Motor Transport Company, St. Dunstan's students, the Police and the Firemen and the many societies and organizations whose active support and canvassing activities made our clinics such a great success.

With this excellent endeavor behind me I believe we will find it unnecessary to hold more than one other clinic in Charlottetown this year. You will appreciate the consequent saving of work and expense, on the part of the Red Cross, and the time and efforts of the donors. If we can maintain the standard set by the donors at this clinic, we will be able to carry on with two, instead of three, clinics each year.

In conclusion may I frankly admit that we set our sights rather high. We knew that an objective of 1200 donors in one clinic is something that had never been thought of before. Let me warn you that we are going to be asking for 1300 in Charlottetown next fall, to make up the 2400 we need as annual donations.

I am, Sir, etc., F.A.S. JONES, Chairman of the Charlottetown Blood Donor Committee.

THE FESTIVAL MOVEMENT

Sir,—A most successful Musical Festival will be drawing to a close this week, a festival which has grown both in size and popularity. Another festival will shortly be underway, this time in dramatics.

This year there are eight plays participating, five one-act plays, three three-act plays. Four good evenings of entertainment will be enjoyed.

How many, we wonder, know that these two fine cultural activities were started as projects of the Women's Institute. I am, Sir, etc., READER

The Fluoridation Question

By James M. Mather, M.D., D.P.H., Head of the Department of Public Health, Faculty of Medicine, University of British Columbia.

In my memory, no single subject in the field of public health has received so much attention in the professional and lay press as the fluoridation of communal water supplies. Nothing in recent years has raised as much public interest. The whole subject has become so bedeviled with emotionalism, there are so many claims and counter-claims, that the average layman finds it difficult to decide what he should believe.

I would propose to approach my subject under certain broad headings. Since we are primarily interested in the effect of fluoridation on dental caries, I will present to you the most recent data on the problem of dental disease among our Canadian people. I will rapidly review the measures, and the fluoridation, which are available to us for the control of dental caries. We will then consider the history of and the results attained from fluoridation in the United States and Canada.

Is dental health truly a public health problem? Practically every Canadian, during his lifetime, experiences tooth decay or gum disease. In the typical community, over 98 per cent of the school children will have tooth decay, many with subsequent jaw abscesses and tooth loss. Diseases of the gums are widespread among adults, with a good proportion due to early loss or mutilation of the dentition by decay.

The Canadian Sickness Survey of 1950-51 (Department of National Health and Welfare, Ottawa) showed that dental care made up 3.8 per cent of the total health expenditure. Out of a total health care bill for the Canadian people of \$378.8 millions, dental care accounted for \$32.9 millions. The average expenditure per Canadian family for dental care was \$7.20. It must be remembered that this was the actual cost of dental care given and not the cost of the care that was needed. In the Canadian Dental Association in 1954 it was shown that the total cost of dental care in Canada in 1953 was \$73 millions.

SURVEY RESULTS There have been many surveys made on the prevalence of dental caries among school children. A composite of these surveys shows that at school entrance the child has 3 carious teeth, at the age of 6, 20 per cent have decay of permanent teeth and 80 per cent have decay in the deciduous teeth. By 12 or 13, the average child has 5 of his permanent teeth affected and 65 per cent have had decay experience in the permanent dentition. Sixteen year olds have 7 teeth affected, and in the late teens and twenties it ranges from 9 to 16.

Surely, by whatever means we define a public health problem, dental disease fulfills those criteria. Whether we define it on the basis of the number of people affected, on the misery and ill-health it causes or on the resultant economic burden, dental ill health is truly a public health problem in Canada today.

The current argument over fluoridation has tended to distract attention from the alleged role of refined sugar in the production of dental caries. There is much evidence that it is important. It is well known that caries rates in children on a wartime diet low in sugar were universally lowered; a group of children in Australia brought up on a diet free from refined sugar had an extraordinarily low caries rate as have diabetic children on a low carbohydrate diet. However, Clements sums up the practical difficulty of such a diet: "The high incidence and social acclamation of a set of sound teeth are still not adequate to serve as motivation for the restriction of a substance associated with rewards, pleasure, and oral gratification."

A few dedicated enthusiasts like McGregor in Toronto or Honey in Welland may succeed in influencing a relatively small segment of the population but it will never be possible to apply this on a national basis. We may think it is difficult to get people to accept fluoridation in the interest of their children's teeth; it is a vastly easier task than to get them to stop their offspring from sucking candies all day long. (To be continued)

Oldest Delivery Service

National Geographic Society

—ocean currents— are being used today as long-distance couriers more than ever before. The United States Navy Hydrographic Office and the Fish and Wildlife Service cast sealed bottles and plastic "drift cards" into the sea at various places to trace the course of important currents. Great Britain, Russia and other countries are making similar studies, says the National Geographic Society.

But there is a more romantic side to oceanic delivery service. On Christmas night, 1945, a young soldier returning from European duty in a Liberty ship wrote a wistful letter saying that he was lonely. He sealed the note in a bottle and threw it into the Atlantic Ocean.

Next September the youth, then a civilian, received a letter from Ireland. An Irish colleen, while walking her dog along the rocky beach of Dingle Bay, had found his note and been touched by it. Corresponding through more conventional channels, they fell in love. The postal savior flew to Ireland to claim his bride.

A California beach stroller in 1949 picked up a bottle with a fabulously rich note inside. Written in 1837 by an English millionaire, the letter directed that her entire estate be shared between her lawyer and the finder of the bottle. The will, however was contested and broken.

Christopher Columbus sent one of the earliest recorded ocean messages. He set a corkswood coffee adrift during a storm off the Azores because he was afraid his ship might founder, leaving the King and Queen of Spain unaware of his discoveries. It was fortunate that the explorer returned in person, for the chest remained adrift until the skipper of a brig picked it up off the coast of Morocco many years later.

During the reign of Queen Elizabeth I, a fisherman found a bottle bearing an important political secret. As a result, the Queen appointed an official "Uncorker of Bottles." She made the reading of bottle messages by unauthorized persons a hanging offense. The post of Uncorker lasted until the time of George III.

USED BY EVANGELISTS Evangelists have long taken advantage of the ocean currents. An Alabama minister has tossed more than 30,000 bottles into the Alabama River to be carried out to sea. The bottles contain copies of his sermons. The Merseyside Bottle Evangelists, an organization in Liverpool, England, enclose tracts and scripture quotations in containers. These are given to missionaries to be cast into the ocean in all parts of the world.

Medically Speaking

By Herman N. Budenes, M. D.

HOW ASPIRIN WORKS

I don't suppose many of you imagine there's anything very mysterious about an aspirin tablet. But there is. Aspirin is one of our most widely used drugs. Every day thousands of Americans gulp an aspirin or two to cure headaches. Ten grains is usually enough, for a case of sniffles.

In fact, an estimated 15 tons of these pain relievers are used in the United States each day. There is no mystery about what it does. We know that it kills pain safely and effectively and that it reduces fever quickly, even more quickly than antibiotics in some cases. However, we don't know how it does these things.

RECENT STUDIES

Studies are under way right now at the University of Illinois, University of Michigan, Northwestern University and Purdue University to try to solve this mysterious riddle. Scientists are even using radioactive-tagged aspirin and geiger counters to try to trace the path of aspirin through the bodies of rats.

LOSS OF HEAT

Apparently, aspirin increases what we term "heat dissipation" in the case of a fever. It causes loss of heat from the body's surface, thus lowering the temperature. But how it causes this heat dissipation or why it works in this way only when necessary to lower a fever, is still a mystery.

QUESTION AND ANSWER

Mrs. F.H.: Does the physical health of the mother have anything to do with whether the baby will be a boy or girl. Answer: The physical health of the mother does not determine the sex of a baby.



THE HELPMATE

I hae nae gear, nae pot nor pan, Nau lauchin' lips hae I; Forbye yersel' there's ne'er a man Looks round as I gang by.

Ye' muckle care ma mither bred Her bairn in wisdom's way; Come Tyesday first when we are wed, A wiselike wife ye'll hae.

The best ye'll get, baith but and ben, Sae mild and douce I'll be; Yer me'll be yer haven when Ye're married upon me.

Ye'll find the kettle on the fire, Yer hoose pit a' tae ritches And yer heid in the troch at the back o' the byre When ye come back fu' o' nicks.

—Violet Jacob in the Montreal Star.

The Age Old Story

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. Th' same was in the beginning with God.

OUR YESTERDAYS

From The Guardian Files

TEN YEARS AGO

(May 8, 1946) The Prices Board announced today that no ceiling will be imposed this year on the price of fresh strawberries and raspberries. Sales of strawberry and raspberry jams still are controlled by price ceilings.

Should the strike materialize as stated by the Canadian Seaman's Union, a proportion of shipping serving Prince Edward Island would be affected. It is definitely stated that such a strike would not hold up the Borden-Cape Tormentine ferry.

TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO

(May 8, 1921) A delegation from Summerside waited on the Government Monday in the Legislation Chamber to present a petition from the Town Council, for a resident Judge of the Supreme Court with Chambers in Prince County.

In the market Wednesday, eggs sold for 20 cents; butter 30 cents; fowl \$1.25 to \$1.45; herring 25 cents a dozen; fresh cod and haddock 12 cents and lobsters 25 cents a pound. Produce prices remained about the same as last week.

Navigation opened in Summerside, Monday with the arrival of a small steamer with 600 tons of coal from Sydney, N.S. It is rumoured that a schooner laden with rum and Scotch whisky is lying off the North Shore.

USED BY EVANGELISTS

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NOTES BY THE WAY

What happens now to all the little Russian children who were named after Joe Stalin?—Brandon Sun

A projected 120-storey building in St. Louis will have eighteen of its storeys underground. This raises the interesting question, "How low can a skyscraper go?"—Ottawa Journal

Durability tests on British frogs have been going on since last July. The frogs are kept at a 38-degree temperature, given one minute of light and heat every other day and on the alternate days squirted with icy water. So far they've stayed content and healthy, and have maintained approximately the average frog birthrate. As we reach for our vitamin pills our hands shake nervously. It sounds to us as if the rugged frogs are in line to take over control of things, and leave the human race to sniffle and wheeze in bosky marshes.—Detroit Free Press

The Manitoba legislature has gone very badly for the Government. There is no blinking that fact. The tragedy, in the minds of the trouble-makers, is that the pains and errors of the session have sprung, in such very large measure from one source. And that source is, of course, the way the Government has dealt with beer prices.—Winnipeg Free Press

Seeds, Feeds, Poultry and Dairy Supplies

FRESH SUPPLY SEEDS—

Maritime Grown No. 1 "Laurantian" Turnip Seed; "Moose's" Prince white Mangel Seed; "Renzie's" Mangel Seed; — and ALL KINDS OF FIELD SEEDS.

FEEDS—

A full line of "Purina" Feeds; "CHICK STARTER"; "CHICK GROWER"; "PIG STARTER"; "PIG GROWER"; Cattle and Calf Feeds; Oilcake, Bran, Shorts, etc.

POULTRY EQUIPMENT—

Oil and Coal Brooder Stoves; Purina Chick Feeders; Waterers (all sizes); Chick-R-Tabs; five-inch Stove Pipe. BABY CHICKS, etc.

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All sizes Milk and Cream Cans; Strainers; Dairy Buckets; Filter Disks; Cattle Salt in Blocks and Bags.

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People who complain that the mournful toot of a distant train whistle rarely reverberates through the countryside any longer are unaware that those old, prolonged blasts cost the railroads a pretty penny. The Southern Pacific Bulletin printed the result of a survey made on the 265 mile run between Houston and Dallas. Every day, it says, locomotives at each section of the SP must whistle 6,268 times.

The legislated 1956 session of the Manitoba legislature has gone very badly for the Government. There is no blinking that fact. The tragedy, in the minds of the trouble-makers, is that the pains and errors of the session have sprung, in such very large measure from one source. And that source is, of course, the way the Government has dealt with beer prices.—Winnipeg Free Press

PINT SIZE WRESTLERS

Sandor Szabo, former big-time professional wrestler, teaches junior matmen all the best holds in his Pasadena, Cal. gymnasium. Sports Editor Andy O'Brien tells of this well-organized school that is building health and developing courage for its youthful followers. Story with pictures in THE STANDARD this week. Get THE STANDARD — on sale now, complete with magazine, 12-page novel and 20 pages of comics. Only ten cents.

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POLIO INOCULATING CLINICS In CHARLOTTETOWN and SUMMERSIDE POSTPONED FROM THIS WEEK UNTIL A LATER DATE. HEALTH DEPARTMENT, PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND