

THE GUARDIAN

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"The Strongest Memory is Weaker Than the Weakest Ink"

CHARLOTTETOWN TUESDAY, JAN. 16, 1951

Fertilizer Supplies

In a despatch published in our Monday's issue, Mr. J. E. McIntyre, secretary of the Maritime Fertilizer Council, urges upon all farmers and dealers the importance of taking immediate delivery of their fertilizer requirements to escape possible price increase and shortage.

Those buying early will escape not only the price increase, estimated to be at least 5 per cent, but will obtain a discount during January of \$1.25 a ton.

New Zealand's agriculture is reported to be facing an immediate crisis owing to the world-wide shortage of sulphur, essential to the manufacture of basic fertilizers, and rationing of superphosphate manure is being considered.

To date, Canada has not lacked for sulphur, and the very great increase in the supply as a by-product of oil refining should assure that even heavy exports to other countries will not endanger the supply for the home market.

Unity Needed Most

The Winnipeg Free Press takes to task a CBC commentator, in an Ottawa broadcast, for stating that the decision to send the United Nations' forces in Korea north of latitude 38 was a United States' decision, that Canada had disapproved of it, and that the crossing was ordered by the U. S. against the advice of Canada.

"These are untrue statements," says the Free Press bluntly. "More than that, they are statements which will offend public opinion in the United States and create in Canada a mistrust of the United States Government."

Chalk River Expansion

The expenditure of \$30,000,000 over the present year or two to construct a third atomic energy pile (or furnace) at Chalk River, in the Ottawa River Valley, will virtually double the present scale of Canada's nuclear facilities.

While the Canadian Government has prided itself on the peaceful nature of its atomic energy project, the fact is well known that Canada could produce an atomic bomb if the decision were made to do so and Parliament was prepared to authorize the heavy expenditure.

search. Barring another devastating world war, the day of the commercial power plant employing atomic energy may be only five or ten years away.

EDITORIAL NOTES

When doctors disagree who shall decide?

Summerside is making a stir in business circles by its combined effort to attract customers to its stores. They evidently believe in union there is strength.

The P. E. I. Jersey Breeders holding their annual meeting here today can count their success largely by the high quality attained by members' herds.

It must have come as a surprise to many to find that the quantity of potatoes in storage, both in this Province and in Canada generally, is considerably less than a year ago.

Mr. John Diefenbaker, K.C., who has been chosen to defend Atherton charged with being responsible for Canoe River, B.C., railway disaster, must pay \$1,500 for admission to B. C. Law Society before he can appear in court as counsel.

Two items from Sydney in recent days should provide material for more or less profitable speculation. One is to the effect that the jail is overcrowded and more prisoners must be accommodated elsewhere than within its walls.

It is worth recording that New Zealand, so finely weather-conditioned for the purpose, supplies 30 per cent of Britain's butter. Denmark contributes 24 per cent, Australia 15 per cent. So far as cheese is concerned, New Zealand sends 58 per cent, and Canada 24 per cent.

Boy Scouts will be especially interested in recent accounts of a training camp of the Canadian Army in Korea. Stripped of the amenities usually supplied for more permanently located troops the Canadians have been making their living conditions more comfortable in ways quite familiar to the Boy Scout trained in fieldcraft.

Barclays Bank (Canada) announces that four fairly big banks in Calcutta, namely The Bengal Central Bank Ltd., The Comilla Banking Corporation Ltd., The Comilla Union Bank Ltd. and The Hooghly Bank Ltd. have amalgamated with effect from 18th December, under the name of United Bank of India Limited.

Henry Dupre Labouchere, English journalist and reformer, died this date 1912. Best known as the fearless editor of Truth, a weekly magazine he published chronicling society news and gossip.

The dairy farmers of Canada will spend some \$350,000 in the next 12 months to re-coup sagging sales in butter and stop lowering production in the dairy industry, Orville Shugg of Toronto, a public relations official and sales promotion executive for the dairy farmers, says the move was unprecedented in the history of Canadian farming.

Is it true (asks the Gazette) all members of the Federal Cabinet do not see eye to eye about whether the Trans-Canada Highway should be shelved for the duration of the defence emergency? Chances are it will be side-tracked as a national project, and bits and pieces only undertaken.

Those Dauntless Dippers. NEWS ITEM: ENJOYS WINTER BATHING - Bathing suit clad P.E. Island-born woman is pictured in a Boston paper chopping a hole in the ice and taking a weekly swim. IN FACT, IT WAS TOO MUCH FOR OUR FRIEND, SAGACIOUS CHATMORE... ENJOYS winter bathing no less. Plainly suffering from shock. WE HAD ALWAYS ASSOCIATED THIS SPORT WITH BRAVINY MEN AND POLAR BEARS... THIS LADY COULD HAVE STAYED ON THE ISLAND... AT LEAST THERE ARE ANY AMOUNT OF GENTLEMENLY FELLOWS AROUND... IT MIGHT HAVE BEEN A CHANCE TO ESTABLISH ANOTHER POPULAR SEASON AT OUR FAMOUS BEACHES... WHO WOULDN'T SEE HER HAVE TO CHOP THE HOLE IN THE ICE HERSELF!

Old Charlottetown (And P. E. I.) THE ICE BARRIER

From an account by Lieut. Colonel Sleigh, "late of Her Majesty's 77th Regiment," of his passage by ice-boat to Prince Edward Island in the first week of March, 1852; continued from yesterday's issue:

"We had soon reached the extent of the shore-ice, and now commenced our labours. All unfastened the straps from off the shoulder, as a long ridge of sharp boulders had to be ascended. Irving sprang forward with a line, and clambered up a mass of ice some fifteen feet high; he got on the other side, and all hands pushing full strength, we pushed the boat upwards after him; a couple of the crew mounted on the top of the ice, and getting the bows of the boat well poised, they overbalanced her, and down she glided on the other side.

"I found it a most difficult task to follow these nimble fellows; my India-rubber boots caused me continually to slip on those portions of the ice where no snow lay; but having gone head-over-heels half a dozen times, I soon became familiar with the ups and downs of my journey. After clambering up a boulder, I on the easiest way to gain the top of the ice, in some instances became a dangerous experiment, as, in the gullies between two masses of ice, snow had generally collected to the depth of several feet; and on going down a rather steep declivity, I found myself up to the armpits in broken ice, snow, and water, and Irving being near he snatched at me, otherwise I ran a fair chance of disappearing. This rendered me more cautious in my sliding experiments, for the masses of ice thus thrown together in confusion were unconnected at the base, floating independently of the others around.

"More than two hours were occupied in crossing a quarter of a mile of this barrier. The wind the previous night was from the northward and eastward, which drove over the bergs towards the New Brunswick shore, and having blown a gale, the masses were thrown with violence one on another, assuming every fantastic shape the imagination can conceive.

"On reaching the last ridge, we had an opportunity of again looking out upon the Straits. Further than the eye could see were enormous fields of ice, with black patches and streaks here and there, appearing like ink from the contrast with the whiteness around; this was the water.

"A snowdrift soon obscured the horizon; but passing away to the south, we lost no time in launching the boat into a surging mass of broken drift-ice. The pilotage through this was most difficult; all hands were engaged with boat-hooks, paddles, and oars, in shoving away one block, drawing on towards another, or with united strength pushing some larger obstruction to one side.

"Then we would come to a patch of field-ice about a hundred feet broad; each man stepped from the stern towards the bows and, assisted by those who had first jumped on the ice, one by one we stepped on the frozen surface. A long line was laid hold of, and thus we would drag the boat on the field, and again harnessing ourselves to the gunwales, drag it towards another opening. The boat was shoved, hewn into the water, and then drawn alongside the ice. In we all stepped; by renewed exertions similar to the last we succeeded in making a few hundred yards of distance, but frequently not in our right course, as the noon tide, which set in with a strong southerly force, had carried us a couple of miles too far to that quarter, as our direction was east by north. To regain our lost ground, we had to make for larger fields of ice, and hauling the boat on it, head up at a rapid canter."

Russia's Policy In The Cold War (By W. N. Ewer)

The proposal of the British, American and French Governments for the holding of a meeting of the Council of Foreign Ministers could provide an opportunity for an erasing in 1951 of the international tension, which has seemed, at times near breaking point in 1950.

But that could only be so if the proposal were not only accepted but accepted in the spirit in which it has been made. Another meeting of the Council after the pattern of those held in Moscow and London in 1947 would serve little purpose in each of those occasions Mr. Molotov opened the conference with a salvo of accusations against his allies, hurled charges across the table which he made no attempt to substantiate, and continued through dreary controversial weeks to use the Council simply as an instrument of propaganda against the Western powers.

These were the meetings which effectively destroyed what goodwill had survived from the days of the Alliance. They were for the Russians part of the operation of declaring the cold war. They linked with Molotov's withdrawal from the Marshall Aid Conference, with Zhdanov's formulation of the doctrine of the two camps, and with the attempt to drive the Western powers out of Berlin by blockade.

To repeat those performances would at best be a waste of time. And it is therefore wise to suggest to what the first step should be: negotiation between the representatives of the four powers at Lake Success to see if some "mutually acceptable basis" can be found for a meeting of their principles.

"It is difficult," the Manchester Guardian wrote last week, "to look at the prospect of a four power conference with enthusiasm." It is indeed difficult. For everything must depend upon the mood and the purpose with which the Soviet Government will approach such a conference. And there is no sign at all of any change either of mood or purpose. There is no sign of any alteration in what the three powers call "the general attitude of the Government of the U. S. S. R. since the war", or of any modification in the Russian doctrine of inevitable conflict between the "two camps."

The tone and language of the Soviet press-which mean only be fully appreciated by those who have read it regularly-is more hostile and less restrained than at any other time. Nor in such diplomatic contacts as exist is there any indication of anything other than hostility. It may be that if the suggested preliminary meetings are held in Lake Success Mr. Malik will give some indication of a desire to find a "mutually acceptable basis." That did happen in the spring of 1949. It could happen again. But it would be foolish to be optimistic.

Nor even if the Russians gave signs that they were willing to enter a Conference in order to negotiate (instead of, as in Moscow and London in 1947, in order to quarrel) would much optimism be justified. For there is another danger. It is that the Kremlin would be interpreting the willingness of the West to confer as a revelation of weakness or irresolution, and of a desire to purchase appeasement by concession. One remembers Stalin's attempt in the Moscow talks of 1948 to extort a price for the lifting of the Berlin blockade to induce the Western powers to abandon the political reorganisation of Western Germany in return for a temporary easing of the tension in Berlin.

It would be very characteristic of him to try to repeat that manoeuvre to offer a somewhat vague easing of the tension in return for substantial concessions to Russia in Europe, to China and the Far East, above all in return for some relaxation or postponement of the work of building up the defence system of the free world. It would be characteristic of him to calculate that such offers, if cunningly enough disguised, would at least create dissension and confusion in the West.

For these reasons, a Soviet acceptance of the three-power proposal would have to be greeted with cautious satisfaction rather than with enthusiasm. It would be folly to expect much until we know more. It would be folly to assume that it means that change in "the general attitude" of the Soviet Government which is a

The Poet's Corner

THE SEER

Through fog and drifting cloud on his far height He glimpsed some faltering dawn denied to us Who wondered the valleyed gloom below his hill And thought at that lone face luminous With secrets foreign to our shrouding night.

—Arthur Stringer in the New York Times.

ic condition for any real change in the world situation. Above all, it would be folly to expect miracles from a mere decision to hold a meeting of the Council. But that does not mean that the alternative to a meeting is a catastrophe. Even rejection of the three-power offer would not mean that Russia is determined to make war, any more than its acceptance would mean that she is determined to make war, any more than its acceptance would mean that she is determined to make peace.

Moscow's policy has, I think, been well summarised in a pamphlet just published by the London Bureau of Current Affairs, tracing the history of the cold war. The author, Miss Anne Whyte, concludes that the Soviet Government with "no certainty that cold war would benefit her in the long run" believes the cold war much more effective for her purposes.

"We must reckon therefore, on the most favourable assumptions, that the cold war will go on indefinitely." That seems to me to strike the realistic if somewhat depressing mean between unjustified optimism and equally unjustified pessimism.

That Phone Call

(London correspondent in Ottawa Journal)

It was about half-past six on Christmas morning when the inspector on routine duty at Scotland Yard, while looking casually through police reports, had a ring on the phone.

In answer to his "Scotland Yard here," a voice said "The Stone Stone has been stolen from Westminster Abbey." "Don't talk damned nonsense," said the inspector irritably. "This is Christmas Day and we've heard this sort of thing before." Back came the voice: "This is the Dean of Westminster speaking!"

Then, of course, the Yard started to get really busy. The Stone Stone weighs three-and-a-half hundredweights, and was imbedded. Obviously a gang must have been concerned in its removal. Police were stopping all cars bound north but it is an amusing thought that all the time the missing relic might be travelling home by British National Railways.

MOSTLY GOVERNMENT Canberra, built as the site of the Australian government, has a population of about 18,000.

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Larry Gorman's Ballads

Louise Manny in The Maritime Advocate, October, 1948 (Concluded from yesterday's Guardian)

The Boys of the Island is well liked by Miramichi woodsmen. Here are five verses as sung by Jared MacLean, Strathadam, for Mr. Doerflinger's book. Mr. MacLean heard this rendering not long ago from Neville Whitney, aged 87, also of Strathadam:

"Come all ye young fellows of Prince Edward Island. Come list to my song, and I'll tell you the truth, it's true I'm a native of Prince Edward Island. I'll advise every young and sensible youth.

Now the boys on the Island, they say they're not happy To work on the farm, they say it's no good. They talk foolish nonsense, they're rambunctious crazy. To go off to Bangor and work in the woods.

Now a new suit of clothes is prepared for the journey, A long pair of boots made by Sherwood and Clark. And a fine kennebecker filled up with good homespun. And then the young Islander takes his embark.

When he reaches Bangor, gets off at the station, Old woodsmen gaze on him all with a keen eye. For they know by the clothes that the youngster is wearing. It is easily seen that he came from P. I.

Now a lumberjack's life is of short duration. Made of tobacco, hard work and bad rum. But according to scripture there are a hereafter. And the worst of your days, boys, has yet got to come.

Now if this be the law, by the mother of Moses, They have better laws 'mong the heathen Chinese. They go out and get drunk, and come in and get sober. They go out when they like, and come in when they please."

Of all Larry's songs, the most popular of the Miramichi is the Scow at Cowden Shore. It poked fun at the "crowd who worked round the scow" on the Scow West, and their girl friends, and described all their activities with the lulling ease that is Larry at his best:

"Dan Brown and Willie Layton. On the women they go a-waitin'! They drive them round on Sundays, Miss Vickers and Miss Poor."

In all its glory, the Scow has thirty-odd verses. I don't know if anyone can sing them all. Every time I hear it there seems to be a different verse added. But no one omits the verse, though it varies:

"There was men from Ralshabucta, Suotoucha and Oromotcha, From Frederickton and Bathurst, And Macdonalds from Bras d'Or, Island men and Restigouchers, Nashedwakers and Pokemouchers, All worked for daily wages, Round the scow at Cowden shore."

The Scow is sung to a very old tune, on a five-tone scale, and is, I suppose, based on one of the old folksongs Larry's mother sang for him. The Lord Beaverbrook collection has two renderings, one by Willie MacDona of Black River Bridge, and the other by Fred McMahon of Chatham. I do not think that Larry ever made up his tunes — like most of our balladists, he used or adapted old ones. He used and adapted phrases, too, and took what he needed wherever he found it. That was common practice, and greater poets than Larry have done the same.

Like all who lived the reckless life of a woodsman of his time, Larry fell upon evil days in later life. The roasting life of the woods and the stress of Bangor got him in the end. In his old age, with no money saved, he used to peddle printed copies of his songs for a few pennies. No one would be more amused than Larry Gorman to know that these crude broadsides are now "collectors' items" of the rarest sort. The songs that he scattered to the four winds to entertain and annoy his contemporaries are now eagerly gathered up by balled collectors. They give an unimpaired picture of a woodsman's life in the late 1800's, painted by a man who was part of it, the way he saw it. Insults and all, there is light-hearted charm about everything he wrote which makes you understand why woodsmen used to say: "This winter I'm going to the woods for Hutchison-Larry Gorman's there!"

"Oh, if Larry had only had book-

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