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Another Island "First"

Convincing evidence that the Farmers' Bank of Rustico, P. E. I., was the first "people's bank" in Canada—perhaps in North America—has been gathered by Dr. John T. Croteau, of the University of Notre Dame, Indiana, and formerly professor of economics at St. Dunstan's University and Prince of Wales College here.

The Farmers' Bank of Rustico was organized among a group of Acadian farmers and chartered by the Island Legislature in 1863. It continued operations till 1894. It was, as Dr. Croteau notes, by far the smallest bank, measured in share capital, ever to operate in Canada.

Much of the material contained in Dr. Croteau's article was gathered at first hand here in the summer of 1954. Accompanied by Dr. J. H. Blanchard, of Charlottetown, he visited several old residents of Rustico and surrounding areas and gained much valuable information.

Dr. Croteau's findings are so interesting that they might well be studied by the Historical Sites and Monuments Board of Canada, with a view to having a monument erected at Rustico to the first people's bank in this country.

Racial "Purity"

People who advocate racial discrimination—and they are not all in the Southern States by any means—often try to preserve the "purity" of the white race. The inference is that only Europeans and their offspring in the Americas and elsewhere are of pure blood, all other races are tainted in greater or lesser degree.

regions of Tibet. These have remained much as they were in the beginning of their history, for the simple reason that on the whole they have been able to maintain their isolation from the rest of mankind.

"Significantly enough," he concluded, "these groups are the most backward of the human species. So, our race 'purist' is confronted by a three-horned dilemma. He has either to admit that he, as every other man, comes from a common ancestry (this is what the anthropologists say) or that his Caucasian stock is actually a mixture, or that in view of the backward condition of 'pure' races existing today (the pigmies, for example), there is no real pride in claiming to be a member of a 'pure' race."

As for blood itself, everybody knows by now that the blood of a Negro or a Chinese or an Eskimo is exactly the same as the blood of the white man. During the Second World War hundreds of white soldiers, sailors and airmen from the Southern states owed their lives to the injection of Negro blood in their veins. In emergencies no one asked where blood for transfusions came from. Yet, it has not been recorded that any of them was the worse for the experience.

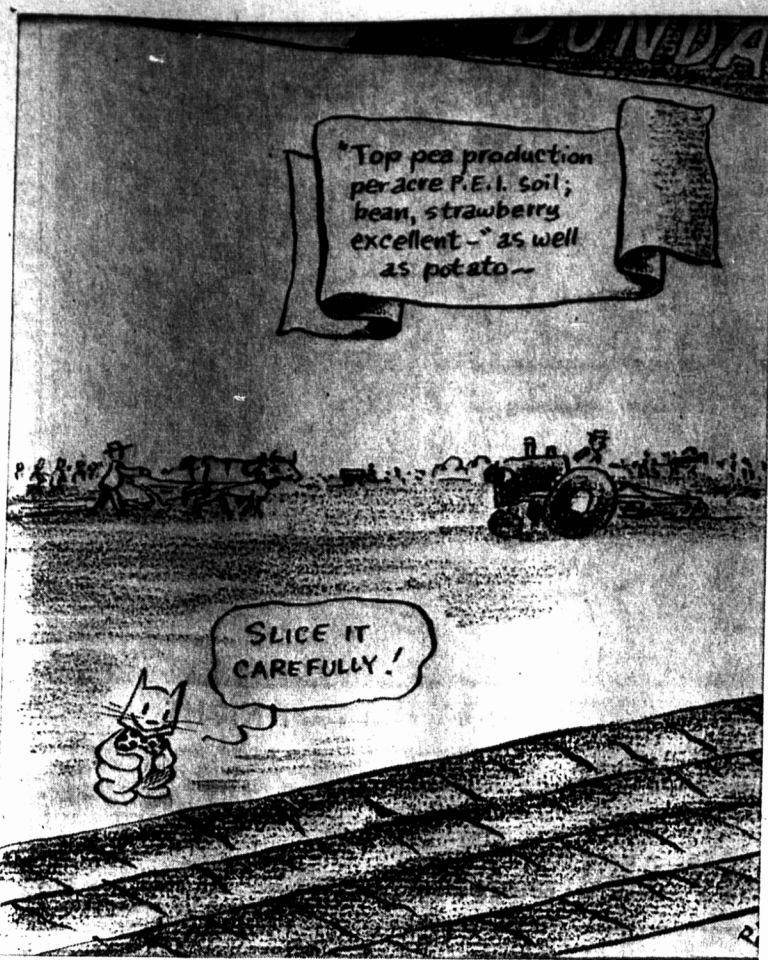
EDITORIAL NOTES

Whatever else may be said about the United States' agricultural price-support program, there is no question about its high cost of operation. A report says that in the last fiscal year ended June 30 there was a net loss of approximately \$975 million, almost \$200 million more than the year before.

The Duke of Argyll—Ian Douglas Campbell, Master of the Royal Household of Scotland, Keeper of the Great Seal of Scotland, Admiral of the Western Coasts and Isles, Hereditary Sheriff of Argyll and Keeper of the Royal Castles of Du-noon, Dunstaffnage, Carrick and Tarbert—is not the man to pass up a baybee. He has opened his Inverary Castle to tourists at two shillings a head.

A report from London indicates that Englishmen have other problems to consider besides Egypt's nationalization of the Suez. A really tough one is how to find enough piano players to keep things lively in the pubs. Small pay and long hours, together with more attractive offers in less convivial places, have brought about a serious shortage. Some of the houses have installed music making machines, but most patrons don't care for the innovation.

French Government officials are said to feel that the United States "betrayed" Britain and France in the Suez crisis. The word may be a little on the severe side; but everybody should know by now that anything American Government officials may say between now and November must be interpreted in terms of political expediency. Nothing less than a direct attack on the continental United States would persuade them that American participation in war was justified.



THE GOOD EARTH

OTTAWA REPORT

British Columbia's Big Boom

By Patrick Nicholson

OTTAWA: Now British Columbia has got everything. Our fortunate Pacific Coast province has always enjoyed our best climate; today it also offers the highest level of prosperity among our provinces.

These records will shortly be emphasized by the announcement that two more big United States industries will build branch plants in the Vancouver area. In one case, the preparations have been completed already; plans for the second are far advanced.

The advent of natural gas, piped across the Rocky Mountains, is responsible for attracting these two industries. This new fuel offers the double advantage of a low price and the incidental provision of by-products which can be utilized in the chemicals industry.

Our most go-ahead province was leading the parade even before these new plans became known. Trade Minister Howe recently submitted a report to Prime Minister St. Laurent, outlining the economic picture across the country.

B. C.'s Power supply and other utilities are being expanded; natural resources developed; manufacturing industries introduced;

PUBLIC FORUM

This column is open to the discussion of current events of general interest. The Guardian does not necessarily endorse the opinion of correspondents.

MEAT PACKING FACILITIES

Sir, — In your issue of Sept. 10th, you published a letter by Willard Prowse concerning a "Proposed New Industry," i.e. the proposed abattoir and meat packing plant. Mr. Prowse draws attention to some of the benefits this new industry would create: they are important and worthwhile.

There are in the Maritime Provinces two meat packing plants of considerable size, one at Charlottetown, the other at Moncton. Some years ago these two plants were almost adequate to slaughter, process, or move to the trade in the form of meat all the animals offering.

But recent years the numbers of animals raised has increased rapidly and each year it is more obvious the two large plants are now very inadequate to handle the supply offering at certain peak periods. The result is that both plants are compelled, at frequent intervals, to discontinue buying animals until the congestion at the plants is overcome.

That is not a healthy situation because when the plants are unable to readily handle all the animals offering over a period of several weeks, then there is in effect, no competition for what is offered. Mr. Prowse in his letter states, "Figures show that the Maritime Provinces import approximately 50 per cent of the meat they use."

Now I would urge all interested (and who should not be?) to consider these two conditions. One, the producer unable to readily dispose of his cattle because the plants are unable to handle the volume offering and the other, the area importing 50 per cent of the meat used.

What a different situation would prevail if there were adequate facilities for slaughter, storage or processing of all animals offering at any time. Then there would be keen competition or demand for the purchase of all animals. Demand would be an incentive to increase production and employment all along the line.

An additional plant would be a positive help to this end and therein, I maintain, would be the greatest benefit of the proposed abattoir and meat packing plant. I am, Sir, etc., DANIEL GASS, Cornwall, P. E. I.



SANCTUARY Remember the little island we once owned, Scented with ripe wild raspberries and pine? Our tethered rowboat chucked against the wharf Like a grey pony pulling on its line. There was no cooling spring to drink from there. Only the blue and lively lake around. And sun-baked lichen curled on rocky ground. And happiness like pennants in the air. When things seem grim, I cross an inner lake To find that island in uncertainty And even memorized discomforts wake A warm and primitive security. To be there brings proportion back again. Where each least branch and bettle was concerned With innocent fulfillment of itself. And pure air hit the skin and clear sun burned. —Virginia Brasler in the New York Herald-Tribune.

Medically Speaking

By Herman N. Sandness, M. D.

20-20 VISION NEEDN'T MEAN SIGHT'S PERFECT Don't take it for granted that your eyes are perfect just because you have 20-20 vision. This common misconception, unfortunately, gives many persons a false sense of security and prevents them from seeking eye care which they really need.

Frequently, after a brief screening test, a person will be informed that he has 20-20 vision. All this means is that you can see at a distance of 20 feet what a normal vision sees at that distance. It means that you have sharp eyesight when viewing distant objects.

Years ago, 20 feet was chosen as the standard for such tests because light rays are virtually parallel at that distance. Quite frequently a person who has such sharp vision is far sighted. He may also be near sighted or have other eye defects.

The 20-20 verdict doesn't indicate how good your sight is for reading and other close-up work, how good is your side vision and dark adaptation and how much teamwork there is between your two eyes.

READING DIFFICULTY Actually, in a large proportion of the seeing problems encountered today, especially those associated with reading difficulty, definite trouble exists along with 20-20 vision. A study of 160,000 Texas children recently showed that 53.4 per cent of them had 20-20 vision and yet lacked the ability to use both eyes properly.

VISION RATING A vision rating of 20-20 means that your eyes are perfect only if you also have normal side vision, good sight for colors, are able to read clearly at a distance of about 15 inches and have normal, healthy eye tissues.

All of these things can't be determined with a simple eye chart test. Only an eye specialist can tell you whether your vision really is perfect. Don't accept a 20-20 verdict as the final word.

QUESTION AND ANSWER

C.P.: My child was bitten by a rat. Are there any contagious diseases transmitted by rats? Answer: Your child should receive protective inoculations against tetanus or lockjaw, for a bite from a rat can transmit this disease.

A rare disease known as rat bite fever also can be transmitted in the same manner. It would be advisable for you to consult your physician.

OUR YESTERDAYS

From The Guardian Files TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO (September 13, 1931)

Mr. F. E. Henry of the Audit Department, C.N.R., Montreal, who has been spending a holiday with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. L. G. Henry, City, returned to Montreal yesterday accompanied by his brother Heath.

Miss Flora Murchison, who has had a year's leave of absence from her school, which she spent with her mother, Mrs. P. Murchison, West Royalty has returned to Brooklyn, New York.

At the recent St. John Exhibition, cattle owned by J. Walter Jones won sixteen first prizes; he also won a beautiful trophy for the best herd of Holsteins and the T. Eaton prize for the best herd any breed. Earl Ings, Mt. Herbert, won heavily in the Ayrshire classes, taking both grand championships.

TEN YEARS AGO (September 13, 1946)

Mr. and Mrs. Wallace L. Higgins, City, have a welcome guest in Mrs. Higgins' sister, Mrs. Edith Morrison, Grand Prairie, Alberta. It is almost fifty years since Mrs. Morrison and her husband the late Kenneth K. Morrison, formerly of Eldon, left this Province.

Miss Virginia Large of the British Embassy, Washington, had arrived in New York City to take up her duties with the United Kingdom delegation to the United Nations Conference. Miss Large spent the month of August at her home in Charlottetown.

NOTES BY THE WAY

A hailstorm covered the ground with two inches of ice at the Equator in Africa, and we think the weather here is unpredictable! —Sudbury Daily Star

Arkansas reports the case of a seven-month-old baby asking: "When do we eat?" With the cost of living whirling up, it's not too soon for posterity to begin to wonder. —Windsor Star

Something new has been added in vacation demands. A government employee who gets only fifteen days off each summer, though these are called "working" days and therefore total three full weeks has returned nicely tanned with a letter from his doctor saying that the employee lost three days of his vacation due to sunstrokes and should be entitled to three additional days of rest. —The Printed Word

It is declared in the code of ethics of the Canadian Medical Association that the secret splitting of fees by physicians is "not consistent with the honor of the profession". That position is strengthened now by the judgment of Mr. Justice LeBel of the Supreme Court of Ontario that the practice is illegal as well as unethical. —Ottawa Journal

Among major industries, farming has the third-highest accident rate. Surveys show that most accidents occur in mid-morning and mid-afternoon. Therefore, farmers ought to observe rest periods. Accidents are often the result of tiredness. In Britain such breaks are traditional. Farm workers take their sandwich and bottle of tea with them to the field, and rest as they consume them at mid-morning and mid-afternoon. —London Free Press

A man in Hartford, Connecticut, is drawing unemployment benefits because he is too fat to work. That is a new wrinkle, to say the least. The fat man had been employed to pick up scrap wool from the floor. The man had trouble bending down because his tummy got in the way. So he quit. Since no other job was offered to him, the man is entitled to jobless pay. —Owen Sound Sun-Times

Each flower produces a distinct type of honey. An American department store once assembled 169 different kinds of honey from 18 states and 12 foreign countries. Clover honey is the most popular kind in the United States and Canada, though alfalfa, orange blossom, sage, tulip tree, buckwheat, sourwood and other varieties are regarded with favor. Mesquite honey is highly popular in the American Southwest. —Quebec Chronicle-Telegraph

It's too bad the man who'd rather play golf than eat isn't married to the woman who'd rather play bridge than cook. —Calgary Albertan

The government's surplus is higher than last year's at this time and continues to grow, but the Government has its eye on the situation—in an effort to keep the situation under control it is spending more. —Ottawa Journal

"Is a university education any value to a woman?" was the question debated by members of a University Women's Club and answered in the negative by a majority. The phrasing of the question does not suggest the possession of much intelligence by those who posed it. —Bramford Expositor.

On one road in a good Western Ontario township there are ten farms whose owners, while still living on the farm, are working in the city. Cow herds have been replaced by beef cattle and the farms are grazed not cropped. This is typical of what is going on all along the front of old Ontario. —Farmer's Advocate

Jonathan Swift, wit and satirist, opined that he was a brave man who first ate an oyster. Dean Swift's remark reminds that there must have been considerable experimentation long ago to enable man to know what is good for him to eat and what is best untouched. Indeed the entire lesson has yet to be learned. Who knows what wholesome food we now ignore. There was a time when the tomato was deemed poisonous, and in France the blackberry is still scorned although no better blackberries grow wild than in the French countryside. —Cape Breton Post

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Erratum, By The Bard

New York Times, Sept. 4

With the school term about to begin this is perhaps a poor time to take issue with Shakespeare. Such heresies should be held back, at least until the textbooks have been opened. In "King Richard II," however, there is a line deserving a little sharp attention. It comes in the death-kings speech, and reads: "I sit upon the ground and tell sad stories." This is not the Bard at his best; indeed, it sounds like a case of heedless, careless, hurrying writing. To tell sad stories—indeed to meditate, or plan or even to whittle—a man sits not upon the ground, but on a stone or stump.

How did the usually impeccable Shakespeare let this one pass? There is a possibility that having mentioned, an act before. "This precious stone set in the silver sea" he did not wish to overdo the image of stone. There, also, is, of course, the almost limitless possibility of Bacon. Be that as it may, the line has come down, familiar and often quoted, casual and unrealistic as it is.

Hard to Do The reason a man does not sit upon the ground is all too obvious. The ground simply is not built for sitting. It has a great many warty lumps, and as has been discovered again this summer, it is the ideal place for lying. But not for sitting. Especially for those of afterthought years, the ground is a long way down, and the pull of the force of gravity overburdens ancient muscles both going down and arising.

Also there is no place to put the feet while sitting flat upon the ground, for the hip joints no longer seem to manage right angles, or the knee joints those of 180 degrees. In short, a man sitting on the ground would be too uncomfortable to tell any type of stories, particularly the sad ones. Watch how they perform it on the stage. Richard sits upon a stone or stump, else otherwise they would have to lower the curtain and call in the stagehands to get him to his feet. Staff of Poetry either of these a man has true