

THE GUARDIAN

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CIRCULATION "Covers Prince Edward Island like the dew" "The Strongest Memory is Weaker Than the Weakest Ink"

CHARLOTTETOWN, MONDAY, FEB. 25, 1952

period for all the variety of activities in Canada, but at least the proposed change would constitute a decided improvement. Our farmers have complained on many occasions that the statistics now in use are based on 1939, at which time agriculture was just recovering from a period of extreme prostration, and it was palpably unjust to perpetuate relationships that existed at that time between agriculture and the other sectors of the national economy.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Tomorrow, Shrove Tuesday, followed next day by Ash Wednesday, beginning of Lent.

Tourist Service Week is not until May 25 but interested organizations will have a great deal of preparatory work to do before then.

Nova Scotians are beginning to have confidence in their chances of getting both a causeway to the Gut of Canso and the Halifax-Dartmouth bridge. The fate of the proposed new Hillsborough Bridge or Causeway seems far less sure.

His Eminence Cardinal McGuigan, at present our most distinguished Islander abroad, was signally honoured on Friday when he, together with Prime Minister St. Laurent received honorary doctorates of Laval University, with which St. Dunstan's is associated.

New Brunswick, like other provinces, is to have its financial year end March 31 instead of December 31. Federal financing has become so important to the provinces that it is almost impossible to carry on satisfactorily using any but the Federal fiscal year.

The British House of Commons was not at its best in reproaching Mr. Churchill for accepting free transportation on his visit to Canada and the United States. The Opposition seems to be merely imitating the "mink coat" campaign of Mr. Truman's opponents.

Educational Incentive

Good news to all our citizens is contained in the announcement in today's issue of twenty new scholarships and twenty bursaries for third and fourth year students at Prince of Wales College. As will be noted, ten of the scholarships, five in each of the two final years, will have an annual value of \$400 each, and ten an annual value of \$200 each. The bursaries are of \$100 each, ten to each year.

In addition to these awards, which are made possible by Prince of Wales' share of the university grants from the Federal Government, made on recommendation of the Massey Commission, Prince of Wales students will be eligible, starting this Fall, for the grants and loans which for some years have been provided university students elsewhere by Dominion-Provincial agreement. Several universities have also earmarked special scholarships to graduates of fourth year Prince of Wales who go into the third and fourth years of those institutions, and there are other general university scholarships for which Prince of Wales graduates are eligible.

A Priority For Agriculture

This practically means that any normal student prepared to put in hard work during his college term may look forward to qualifying for assistance in some shape or form in finishing his education. It opens wide the door of opportunity in the field of higher education, and its effect in years to come will be of tremendous importance to this Province, as well as of benefit individually to all those participating.

Citizens who are property owners, and about 80 per cent are, have now an opportunity of comparing their new assessment with what they have previously paid. In nine cases out of ten it will be found that the amount charged is reasonable, and should enable a reduction in the percentage assessment.

According to the Canadian Press despatch from Ottawa in our Saturday's issue, the policy of the St. Laurent Government is to develop the railway truck service all over Canada. The start made here must have proved to the Railway's satisfaction, otherwise it would not have become Government policy.

Thomas Moore, Irish poet, satirist and biographer, who died one hundred years ago today, may be regarded as the national poet of Ireland. He was given the appointment of Admiralty registrar at Bermuda, the work being done by a deputy. He earned £3000 from his poem "Lalla Rookh" alone but twice that was required to make good the default of his deputy. On Byron's death Moore destroyed his friend's "Memoirs" and wrote instead a biography which ranks among his best works.

Last Chance Until 1970

Considering that there will not be another total eclipse of the sun until 1970 it is not surprising that no less than fourteen scientific expeditions are in position to observe the one minute of darkness, the path of totality, which crosses part of Asia and Africa. It is not visible at all in the Western Hemisphere but the lessons that may be learned from observations centered on Khartoum should advance our knowledge of the universe and particularly of the behaviour of light and other emissions of heavenly bodies.

New Economic Yardstick

Canada is represented by a party from the University of Ottawa and high hopes are held for successful observations.

It is to be hoped that the new cost-of-living index, to be introduced shortly by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics, will be a more accurate measure of the real changes in the cost of living than the old one. The formula for the latter was set up in depression times, and was arrived at by determining the basic necessities of a family living not very far above the bare subsistence level. It did not pretend to measure the changes in the cost of living among people who enjoyed even the most modest luxuries, and it soon became entirely misleading as a yardstick.

It is reported that the base year for the new index will probably be 1949, "because it forms the first full year in which the transition of a peacetime economy was completed." Thus the average costs of the goods and services included in the formula for the 12 months of 1949 would be taken as 100 and today's index would read between 115 and 125. It is doubtful if any year can be accepted as a fair base

The appointment of Lieut. General Sir Archibald Nye, G.C.S.I., G.C.I.E., K.C.B., K.B.E., United Kingdom High Commissioner in India since 1948, to be U. K. High Commissioner in Canada is just announced by the Commonwealth Office in London. Sir Archibald will succeed Sir Alexander Clutterbuck, K.C.M.G., M.C., who leaves Ottawa in the early summer to be United Kingdom High Commissioner in Australia. Sir Alexander Clutterbuck has served in Canada since May, 1946.

Prime Minister St. Laurent's announcement that Parliament will, as last year, be asked to vote \$25,000,000 for economic assistance and \$400,000 for technical co-operation under the Colombo Plan should meet with general approval. The contribution towards assistance to countries of South and Southeast Asia is one that makes for general prosperity in which this country will share, as it would share in the economic difficulties of those countries unless they are overcome.

"Painful Experiences" Department



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.

THE RUSTICO HIGHWAY

Sir,—The biggest storm of the winter is over. The road reports state that men and machines are toiling night and day to open all highways. Three days have passed and the Rustico Highway remains snowbound. Apparently the department that controls the directive power does not consider the Rustico Highway very important.

May we point out that the Rustico highway does not mean a direct road to Rustico only. It is the main artery for the following districts: Rennie's Road, New Glasgow, St. Mary's, St. Patrick's, Hope River, Toronto, Mayfield, Cavendish, North Rustico, and South Rustico.

I leave to some more talented writer the task of stressing the importance of this road and the great need to have it opened up in reasonable time after a storm. Surely such a large number of people depending on it are entitled to this service.

It was the writer's impression that a plow was to be stationed at Hunter's River for use on this important outlet, but apparently this is not the case.

We live in hope that the powers that be will see the light and give us our just right.

I am, Sir, etc., R. L. DICKIESON, Merchant, New Glasgow.

OUR FARM HERITAGE

Sir,—A few evenings ago I listened with considerable pleasure to an address from without the Province that was exceptionally complementary in content to Prince Edward Island, especially the rural portions and their activities. The speaker touched upon past accomplishments, our particularly favourable setting as a Province and at least by implication, emphasized future possibilities and the grandeur of the heritage bequeathed to us by our forebears of preceding generations. It was certainly refreshing to listen to the unbiased lauding of back achievements and one wonders why, at least in some measure, discussions of this type cannot originate locally. It would at least be a change for the better and indicate continued pride in the Province and confidence in its people.

Even the exuberance of a political party about to appeal to the country for re-election could be relished at times as an antidote to these "calamity Jane" issues we have to peruse and listen to almost constantly. The Province has a record of performance and progress in many respects that calls for a "tip of the hat" from the most successful outside competitors and it might be well that reverses should be treated a little more confidentially.

Farming must forever remain the occupation of paramount importance in Prince Edward Island because of the geographical position of the Province and other handicaps preventing it from ever aspiring to become a manufacturing centre of any outstanding consequence. No matter what vassalage bonanza may arise from time to time and attract temporary attention, it is always well that farmers keep their feet firmly planted in the soil, for therein lies security and therefrom must it be extracted. No matter whether actual rubbers or not, or of what vocation, others also are directly or indirectly dependent upon the earth for a livelihood. Did it ever occur to us what would happen if agricultural production, the world over, would abruptly cease? The whole universe would collapse. What a scramble there would be for stock-piling! Talk about inflation and price! The rich would get richer and the poor, poorer. The latter would undoubtedly disappear first and finally, as

Notes By The Way

An American who by skill and falsehood manoeuvred himself into becoming a doctor in the Royal Canadian Navy is reported to have sold his story to Hollywood for \$100,000. And Whittaker Chambers, the confessed Communist who dealt in sedition and associated activities, has sold his story to the Saturday Evening Post for \$75,000. The way of the transgressor is hard, we understand, but it seems now that the easiest way to retire and live comfortably ever after is to select one or more of the Ten Commandments, break it or them into

in the case of his prototype recorded in Scripture, the rich man also would die and probably meet with a corresponding fate. At any rate it would soon be all over and the end of our present existence. So it would appear then, as if farmers do occupy a very definite position of importance with regard to the perpetuation of our life and affairs and are entitled to corresponding recognition. But they must assert themselves and insist they be accorded an equally elevated pedestal with that of other industry and interests when dealing with authority or government. Farmers will never be accorded the prominent place in world affairs, their importance warrants, just so they as they make their approach as supplicants or mendicants in the presence of vested authority. It is advisable that they be equitably organized, with competent leadership, yet with minds of their own, capable of doing some independent thinking for themselves irrespective of that supplied and not content with being merely led about on a leash.

It might possibly be interesting, were one permitted to yield to the urge of referring historically to the distant background of this agricultural industry of which many farmers are proud and others chafe to malign. It is the oldest industry in the world, having had its origin in the Garden of Eden, following mankind's original and gravest error. It was a merciful substitute sentence, replacing merited extermination, but with it was coupled an indeterminate decree: providing for labour and toil and a measure of conflict with nature. In its operation, this has carried down through the ages and there is no indication of getting out from under, even on parole. This probably was the origin of some present day farm problems and the explanation for retarded progress, despite the learning and expounding of a succession of modern "Aids to Agriculture".

Farming is definitely not a job for one destined of a love of the soil, nor should it be entered upon as a drudgery occupation. It is an honourable vocation, the only one wherein the operator works with nature profiting generously from benefits that could not accrue under human control and direction. It is true, nature has a habit of playing the odd quirk that stumps the farmer at times, but if his operations on the whole are being managed in the light of experience, he rarely becomes an equal victim of circumstances, with a contemporary in business, who perchance accumulates a competence in less time when he is fortunate, but loses it faster and more completely, in reverses.

A certain type of character, working on a farm in the country for his subsistence and certainly earning the compensation, was asked on an occasion for his version of opinion on farming. He is credited with having replied: "Farming is a slavish, independent piece of business" and while the wags by whom he was surrounded, enjoyed a hearty chuckle at the description, they admitted it contained more than a mere element of truth. Farming is on occasions a somewhat "slavish" occupation, but it does contain within its scope a degree of security and permanent independence, not always a complementary part of other lines of business.

I am, Sir, etc., J. A. GILLIES

THE PRAIRIES

Man hath no power in all this glorious work; The hand that built the firmament hath heaved And smoothed these verdant swells, and sown their slopes With herbage, planted them with island groves, And hedged them round with forests, fitting floor For this magnificent temple of the sky. With flowers whose glory and whose multitude Rival the constellations! The great heavens Seem to stoop down upon the scene in love,— A nearer vault, and of a tenderer blue, Than that which bends above our eastern hills.

—William Cullen Bryant

The Poet's Corner

How successful McLeod was in the art of literary composition, in which he always had a major interest, is evidenced on every page he published. One may confidently declare that, had he lived out his biblical threescore years and ten, he would have become one of our greatest and most skillful American authors, for he had the magic gift of words, of telling phrase and apt illustration, of fresh figure of speech and vividly descriptive epithets that go with the highest form of literary craftsmanship. On reading his article called "On a Housatop in Capri" published in Lippincott's Magazine in September, 1876, one detects the eye of the literary artist, for he singled out the picturesque and unusual. He describes the late-evening scenes he viewed in mid-May from the roof of the Hotel Tiberio, a famous inn of Capri; he pictures them in language that charms the reader with its wizardry mingling the rich and varied history of the island with stories, legends, and beautiful descriptions often poetic in quality. He makes one feel, for example, the gorgeous magnificence of the twelve imperial palaces of Augustus and Tiberius on that lovely island, for "in this retreat Tiberius spent the last ten years of his life, and Capri became the virtual capital of the Roman Empire."

On the south side of the island, he writes in one place, "there is a projecting ledge called the Rock of the Sirens, and there are not wanting learned men who will move to you that this is the veritable Is. where the Sirens of Homer. And when the first strokes of rain fall, you may still hear their dangerous songs in the dashing and roaring of the waves and the whistling of the wind around crags and through branches; and in the fringe of angry foam you may see the bones of luckless mariners that lie bleaching on the shore. Woe, then, to the wandering Ulysses that lets his frail bark drift on this treacherous coast!"

Soldier Of Misfortune

The Story of a Remarkable Prince Edward Islander By Harold Garnet Black, LL.D. (Concluded from Saturday's Guardian)

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Worth quoting in his description of the origin and progress of the famed tarantella dance. "The dance," he explains, "derives its name from the fancied resemblance to the frenzied dancing which is still in vogue in Southern Italy as a cure for the bite of the tarantula. This poisonous spider spins no web and is seldom seen except at harvest-time. Its bite causes shooting pains all over the body. The friends of the person bitten gather around him, and he plays on various musical instruments, while the sufferer begins a slow dance. "Not until the instrument and the tune, as well as the person playing, are all in perfect consonance with the mood of the patient does the cure begin to take effect. But when that moment comes, the dancer's step quickens, his eye kindles, he fairly shrieks with pleasure, and he dances furiously for hours until utterly exhausted. He then falls asleep, and wakes perfectly cured."

In "The Abbess of Ischia" Lippincott's, May, 1877, McLeod recounts the tale of a nun, Teresina, whose embalmed body he had seen not far from a ghastly row of other grinning mummies standing upright around the walls of a series of convent cells. These cells had been accidentally exposed two years before, when, during a violent storm, a single row of bricks sealing up an ancient doorway had fallen with a resounding crash. Teresina was the last abbess who died in the convent, originally a monastery erected during the Middle Ages. It adjoined the Castle of Ischia and was built on a huge rock of basalt rising abruptly six hundred feet out of the sea. The convent stood on that part of the island nearest the mainland and not far from the lovely Bay of Naples.

McLeod got the details of the story from an old man as together they sat on the highest hill on the island overlooking a wide expanse. "Naples, Vesuvius, Capri, and the sea ringed with the purple light of evening," he wrote, "formed the background of the beautiful picture spread before us."

Teresina, when a young girl, had fallen in love with a roving artist, Francesco, who every day came her way to paint out-door pictures. "On these days," he runs the tale, "Francesco drank in long draughts of innocent pleasure, and soon that season came to Teresina which comes once, and only once, to every woman—when all her desires and hopes have become centered in one object, and when all the world is as nothing to her compared with the man she loves."

The story is strange and fast moving,—a fascinating intermingling of passion, crime, mistaken identity, intrigue, bribery, revenge, frustration, and sublimation. Lippincott's published two other articles by McLeod. One, titled "The Italian Lakes" and carrying seven illustrations, was featured as the opener for the April, 1878, issue. But even more important is his "Can Herculeum be Excavated?," appearing in the Atlantic Monthly for December, 1877. Before that time much interest had been shown in the archaeological discoveries made in Crete. Troy, Ephesus, and other ancient cities, Pompeii, which the eruption of Vesuvius in 79 A.D. had completely buried with a rain of ashes, lapilli, and mud, had already been largely excavated, and some slight work had been done at Herculeum in the middle of the eighteenth century.

Mr. McLeod felt that much more might be learned about the life and customs of earlier Roman times, when the Eternal City was in her heyday, if Pompeii's companion city could be excavated, for

not the least remarkable function of volcanic eruptions, he declared, is that of preserving intact to later ages the perishable monuments of the human race. "It appears, then, to me," wrote McLeod, "the proper moment for calling attention to a fact that seems practically forgotten, that the wealthy city of Herculeum, which has already yielded us the richest spoils of antiquity that we possess, still lies buried and for the most part unexplored, and for discussing the possibility of laying it open to the light of day and availing ourselves of its remaining treasures."

After taking numerous measurements with painstaking care, he computed that to excavate the rest of the city would take ten years and cost about \$4,000,000. He prophesied, however, that money coming from the sale of the works of mural art, statues, utensils, and other implements that would be found, together with fees from visiting tourists, would, in a few years, cover the entire cost of excavation. "Though his idea was laughed at then," said Mr. Thayer to me that night, "it was actually followed later."

Here, then, rescued from oblivion, is only for a fleeting moment, is the dramatic story of a hitherto unknown soldier, a Canadian-born Harvard scholar, whose brilliance of mind amazed all who knew him; who, it would seem, deserved better at the hands of Fortune, but whose promising career unfortunately was cut short long before it had a chance to reach its zenith. Well may he be described as a "soldier of misfortune!" For such, Scott's lines seem singularly appropriate: "Soldier, rest! thy warfare o'er, Dream of fighting fields no more; Sleep the sleep that knows not breaking. Morn of toil, nor night of waking."

The Age-Old Story

Among the gods there is none like unto thee, O Lord; neither are there any works like unto thy works. All nations whom thou hast made shall come and worship before thee, O Lord; and shall glorify thy name. For thou art great, and doest wondrous things: thou art God alone.

Old Charlottetown

(And P. E. I.)

COMMISSIONER COMPENSATED

Road officials in Colonial days had to walk warily in making highway changes. A case in point was discussed in the House of Assembly in 1844, in connection with a petition of William McNeill, of Cavendish, praying to be relieved from the payment of the settlement of an action instituted against him at the suit of the Crown, for having in his capacity of Commissioner, shut up an old road, although the jury had presented a verdict in his favour.

It appears from a House committee report that Mr. McNeill was Commissioner of Roads for the 4th District of Queen's County, in 1825, at which period the road from the settlement of Cavendish to the harbours of New London and Rustico was a dangerous winding path along the verge of high cliffs, and on the shore of the Gulf below highwater mark. The whole of the inhabitants of the settlement applied to the Commissioner for an alteration in the line of the road, and Mr. McNeill, considering himself warranted, on such an application, to alter the line, acceded to the request and opened a new and more eligible road, at the same time closing the old one, with the consent of all parties interested in it, but unfortunately neglected to take such consent in writing. No complaint being made by the Commissioner for doing so appears to have been made; but in 1842, a Crown prosecution was instituted against McNeill (at the instance of one of the applicants to him in 1825) for closing the old path alluded to, and it appeared that the Commissioner, though acquitted of the alleged nuisance by the verdict of a jury, yet was subjected to the payment of costs amounting to £43 16s. 8d. sterling.

The House committee observed that previous to an act passed in the third year of William IV, there was no law to guide the Road Commissioners or others interested in the closing of such roads, as a verdict of a jury required. Mr. McNeill's action appeared to have been warranted by similar practice on the part of several other Commissioners of Roads, who, on a general application from portions of their districts, consisted of themselves as fully authorized to close old lines of road on the opening of new and more eligible ones. The committee considered it a very great hardship that, as a public officer, acting for the advantage of the public generally, he should be liable to pay costs arising from the prosecution brought against him, and recommended that for the favorable consideration of the House, Accordingly, in voting the sum of £48 14s. by way of compensation.

DOVER, England.—(CP)— Since workmen accidentally came across an ancient Saxon burial ground here, more than 80 graves have yielded swords, knives, jewelry and other ornaments.