

THE GUARDIAN

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Civil Defence

In these perilous times it is tempting to take too much comfort from the repeated statements that Prince Edward Island is considered a safe area. Very properly, the powers-that-be have assessed the probable course of events in case of the spread of war, and the various civil defense committees are making their plans to take care of refugees from anticipated target areas.

While taking these steps, however, it should not be forgotten that the conduct of enemy operations can never be fully anticipated. The unexpected is the rule, rather than the exception in war, and citizens must be prepared to act coolly and rationally in the event of developments which the experts had advised were highly improbable.

Exact plans can only be made for a relatively few contingencies, but if each individual is prepared to play his part, come what may, there is no conceivable hostile action which can seriously affect our capacity to share in the national effort for more than a very short period.

Herring

Herring may provide a major fisheries industry for the Island during the late autumn and winter season according to a report presented to the Fisheries Research Board of Canada. The Board's research vessel "Harengus" (the Latin name of the herring) has made catches which indicate at least as good fishing conditions as are found in the North Sea which provides fishing grounds for large British and continental fishing fleets.

The rich prize which is now going largely untouched should provide a stimulus for the rapid adoption of dragners or trawlers by Island fishermen and mean a new source of revenue at a season when it is greatly needed.

Australia's Wool Boom

Australian woolgrowers are described as "riding on the backs of their sheep into a prosperity that leaves many of them breathless." It is not only unrivalled in Australia; it probably has no counterpart in any other comparable area in the world. Receipts for wool sold in Australia in the first five months of the current season to November totalled (Australian) £228,533,000 (\$537,052,000 Canadian), compared with £97,085,000 (\$228,149,000) in the corresponding period of the 1949-50 season—an increase of 136 per cent.

The proceeds of this wool clip to date exceed those of any other full season, except 1949-50, for which receipts aggregated £285,000,000 (\$668,750,000). The average price per pound this year, about \$1.22 is more than double the 51-cent average of last season.

This soaring of wool prices to undreamed-of levels has created difficult economic problems for a country already in the grip of a serious inflation. The immense increase in export income produced by the high price of wool accelerates the inflationary process which is burdening the whole community.

Before the wool season opened the Commonwealth Government had decided to impose on wool-growers a levy of 7 1/2 per cent of gross income to provide a price stabilization plan for the industry, similar to that applied to wheat growing. When the season's market opened so strongly the problem became one of cushioning the inflationary effect of rising wool prices, so in his Budget the Treasurer, Mr. A. W. Fadden, announced that to drain off some of the excess purchasing power created by these prices, woolgrowers would be required to pay the Commissioner of Taxes one fifth of the proceeds of their wool this year as it was sold and would be credited with these amounts as prepayments of taxation. The Treasurer then estimated—in mid-October—that these deductions would aggregate £103,000,000 (\$241,000,000). But they may well take a good deal more money out of circulation if the wool market continues to rise.

Wool accounts for a fifth of the Australian national income at a cheaper cost in manpower than that of most other industries and it is providing over half Australia's export income including 80 per cent of earned United States dollars.

Australia supplies 36 per cent of world production of all apparel wools including 50 per cent of merino types. The high price of wool is due to a variety of causes.

In addition to inflation of monetary values, the consumption of apparel wool since the war has greatly exceeded production.

Since 1945 about 10,000,000 bales of accumulated wartime stocks have been sold and on June 30 last only 484,000 bales remained. The world is now dependent on current production for its requirements and this factor will tend to sustain a buoyant demand. The world clip is about 12,770,000 bales, of which Australia is expected to provide this year about 3,600,000 bales.

Sheep flocks in Australia are gradually recovering from the low level of 1947, when only 95,772,000 were pastured. The latest figure is 111,581,000. High wool prices are naturally encouraging the expansion of sheep breeding.

EDITORIAL NOTES

We are unaccustomed to so much snow around but, after all, changes in weather are lightsome and better than monotonous sunshine.

Although not provided by a benevolent Government, nor by co-operative enterprise, Canada-Packers new livestock barn here is an asset to both town and country.

Finance Minister Abbott's Caribbean cruise is in the best tradition of finance ministers preparing to deliver a budget. For the weeks beforehand they are cared for like invalids, but when the time comes, they and their efforts are mercilessly torn apart.

While it is true that in the long run we cannot have maximum production of both guns and butter, it is reasonable to anticipate that the imported oils for margarine would be cut off earlier than domestically produced butter in case of an all-out war effort.

In Ontario they anticipate an election this year, and the Liberal Party are already making the necessary arrangements. Mr. Walter Thomson will shortly resume his speaking tour of the Province. It was interrupted by the holiday season. He makes a point of visiting each district with a platform appeal, and inviting questions.

"The-End-of-the-World" addicts are nothing new in this country or in the United States. Periodically they make their presence felt, especially in the disposal for money of their land and other assets which they cannot take with them on their departure. The natural inquiry is what they expect will become of the money.

We still have no representative in the Federal Government, and steps should be taken immediately to stress our claims. We are the only one of ten Provinces that is without a member in the Cabinet, and have had none since the death of Colonel Ralston. Mr. MacNaught is entitled to succeed him. There will likely be a reshuffle of the Cabinet soon.

The allegations of bribery against Canadian immigration selection officers may well be found to be false, but that conditions should be such that they could be true while Canada is in almost desperate need of immigrants, calls for a profound change of attitude in the Department.

Assuming co-operation from the weatherman, the Canadian farmers' net income should be about the same this year as last, says the Financial Post. Operating expenses may rise, but strong demand will keep food prices up. Grain prices may be the exception; they're lower now by international agreement than at the start of 1950. Canada-U. S. demand for livestock products will bolster feed grain prices.

Galileo Galilei, Italian astronomer and physicist, died this date 1642. He was put under the ban of the Church, and had his scientific books prohibited because of his new theory of the solar system, which the Holy office decreed to be philosophically absurd. He thereupon abjured his own philosophy to avoid imprisonment. That was in 1638; in 1890, the Italian Government published "The Dialogues of the New Sciences."

Parliament will be resuming soon, and, apart from the crisis, will have to handle many important questions of domestic concern. For us there is our representation in parliament. According to the British America Act, we are entitled to four Senators and four members of Parliament. But out west, M. P.'s are complaining that is over representation according to population, and claim that Western representation should be increased at our expense. This dangerous tendency must be watched by our powers-that-be, both Provincial and Federal. We no longer have the British Parliament to which to appeal, and therefore must keenly watch our interests in the Federal area.

"The More We Get To-gether..."



Notes From Another Island

By "Anon"

LONDON, England.—Nostalgia has, of course, always played a great part in New Year celebrations. Toasts to the coming twelve months of any year about to begin, and convivial expressions of hope that happiness and prosperity will be the lot of one and all are inevitably faced with a feeling of something akin to sympathy for the bent, bearded old fellow whom we conventionally regard as being symbolic of the year just dying.

When we are young our allotted span of three score years and ten seems quite a time. Quite long enough, indeed, for most if not all of what we hope to accomplish. Yet about half way through—if not before—many of us begin to be not so sure. There seem to be so many things that we were going to do and haven't even started, and so little time left. It is then that we come more easily to appreciate the significance of the remarks we have so often heard from our elders about the fleeting moments of youth; in particular, we recall the remonstrances not to wish our life away on those occasions when we have fervently wished for the speedy arrival of a much anticipated and longed-for date or moment.

It is hard to resist the temptation for all that, and to dwell on the metaphor last year gave us some nights that were mighty dark. So full, in fact, of dire possibilities that we greeted the ensuing dawn with no little trepidation lest we learned that during the night we had got ourselves committed to a full scale "hot" war. A year does not need very much of that sort of thing to get itself a bad name, and to see itself being ushered into the limbo with a haste that is almost imperceptible.

For old 1950! Out he goes, remembered far more for the frights he gave us than for the good times. It is as sure as Income Tax that the next twelve months will give us no better encouragement to plan for our old age, but to have reached the beginning of a brand new year at all seems in some way to be a kind of milestone along the road to (we hope) better things. The fact that it also punctuates the march of time, that our three score years and ten are slipping by, hardly seems to matter. On the contrary, some to think of it, at the rate our dotage is approaching there is always a chance that we shall be spared immediate call-up IF the worst happens...

Not an attitude to be proud of, that. But not one that is held seriously, by and large. It is simply in keeping with the tongue-in-cheek, good humoured cynicism of the age. Well, what do we do now that we have the shiny new 1951 stretching before us? Wish away some of our life and look forward to the approach of 1952? Not yet, I think. We'll give the new year a fair chance to show his paces; he may turn out to be more benevolent than at the moment we dare to expect, and when his last day comes and goes we may genuinely regret his passing, with nostalgia and all. We may not yet be able to imagine why, or how. But Mr. Midwinter was a great one for thinking that "something might turn up", and by a curious coincidence Benjamin Disraeli once called that our national motto.

KOREAN HOSPITAL STOCKHOLDERS (CP) — Because of the Chinese Communist offensive the work of the Swedish Red Cross Hospital at Fusan, Korea, has greatly increased, according to Major Kiri Hakason who is visiting Sweden. Steps have been taken to transfer patients to Japan to make room for new ones.

Old Charlottetown (And P. E. I.)

BAPTISM AT LA JOIE

On July 14, 1772, the modest little church of St. John the Evangelist at Port la Jolie witnessed a baptism of more than usual interest, the record of which still survives. The English translation reads as follows: "On the 14th day of July was baptized Peter Francis de Paul, born at 3 o'clock yesterday morning, son of Louis Denis de la Ronde, Esquire, Knight of the Military Order of St. Louis, Lieutenant of the King in St. John's Island and of Madame Louis Chartier de Lotbiniere. The godfather was M. Robert David Gotteville de Belle-Isle, Knight of St. Louis and Governor of St. John's Island, etc. The godmother was Lady Louise de Kervin, Maid of Honour to the Most Excellent Princess Her Royal Highness the Duchess of Orleans, and wife of His Excellency Count St. Pierre, First Knight of Her Royal Highness the said Duchess of Orleans, Grand Master of her household and proprietor of the said Island of St. John. Witnesses, Louis Denis de la Ronde, the father; M. Albert Lord of Demar, member of the General Council of Quebec, and Director General of the said Island, who have hereunto subscribed their names according to the established rule."

The above record, containing so many illustrious names would seem to indicate an advanced state of social refinement in St. John's Island. It might lead the casual reader to the opinion, that even in those remote days, the Colony could boast of titled gentry among its inhabitants. But what would such people be doing in this wild rude country? Why should persons of rank and nobility exchange the luxuries of Parisian society for the wants and privations of colonial life?

We venture the opinion that Lily Louise, wife of Count St. Pierre, and perhaps of others whose distinguished names grace the records of Port la Jolie never saw St. John's Island. Their names may be mere evidence of a custom, by which persons of rank sometimes assisted by proxy at certain religious functions.

Be this as it may, the ceremonies performed in the Church of St. John the Evangelist did not always call together such a galaxy of distinguished persons. A few years later, we find an officer of the garrison and one of the ladies of the Fort, standing sponsors at the baptism of an Indian child. —From "The Early History of the Catholic Church in Prince Edward Island", by Rev. John C. MacMillan, 1906.

The Age-Old Story

The man that wandereth out of the way of understanding shall remain in the congregation of the dead... He that followeth after righteousness and mercy findeth life, righteousness, and honour.

LARGE INDUSTRY

Canned infant foods, an industry producing more than \$5,000,000 annually in Canada, were virtually unknown 20 years ago.

CALENDARS

Any policy-holder who has not received a calendar for the New Year, please telephone or write and a copy will be forwarded, while the supply lasts.

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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.

A REGRETTABLE DISCREPANCY

Sir,—This is to protest against a statement in your last column of page five in Jan. 6th issue. Quote: "Mr. Clark also said: 'Waterworth had been faced with financial ruin due to his family's taking money from the cold storage business.'"

Sir, my wife and I are aged, retired from the active ministry after over forty years of service. Our character, including that of our second son Rev. E. C. also involved with us, has no stain. We have, all three, enjoyed a good measure of respect and honor—a good name. These constitute a large part of the earthly reward of many ministers of the gospel.

I am, Sir, etc., M. WATERWORTH

Montague, P.E.I., January 8, 1951.

(We regret that there should have been any misunderstanding in this matter. The official stenographer's report of the part of the evidence referred to reads: "He said that he faced financial ruin because his family was attempting to take money out of the cold storage." It will be noted that witness did not use the words "due to this family's taking money from the cold storage business." We regret that our summary report—which was followed on Jan. 6th by the full official transcript as above—conveyed an unfair reflection upon an honourable ministerial family held in high esteem throughout the Province.—Ed. G.)

The Poet's Corner

ON A DEAD CHILD

Perfect little body, without fault Or stain on thee, With promise of strength and manhood full and fair, Though cold and stark and bare. The bloom and the charm of life doth awhile remain on thee. Thy mother's treasure wert thou; alas! no longer To visit her heart with wondrous joy; to be Thy father's pride;—ah, he Must gather his faith together, and his strength make stronger. Ah! little at best can all our hopes avail us To lift this sorrow, or cheer us, when in the dark, Unwilling, alone we embark, And the things we have seen and have known and have heard of, fall us.

—Robert Bridges.

FARM COUNTRY

One-third of the population of Denmark live exclusively by agriculture.

Notes By The Way

They're just heard it up in St. Thomas, where the local paper says: "When the husband asked the bride what she stuffed the turkey with, she said she didn't have to, because it wasn't hollow." — Ottawa Citizen.

Sooner or later in the affairs of the mighty slugger, like Stalin, comes the critical moment when he strides to the plate swinging three bats and no one backs up to the fence. — Winnipeg Tribune.

It is said that the United States was conceived in freedom and established as a refuge for the oppressed of all the world. One may add to that that the Americans, in this generation, have received willingly upon their broad shoulders the burden of the liberty of mankind. It is a lovely thing to see the accomplishment of that principle that true greatness is not measured by the power to command but by the willingness to serve. And those who have criticized, sometimes, the newness and uncertainty of Americans, would do well to recall the words of Isaiah: "Behold, I have refined thee but not with silver; I have chosen thee in the furnace of affliction." — Edmonton Bulletin.

Last week in Montreal a pedestrian who ignored an automobile horn was awarded \$540 damages against the motorist who ran him down at a street crossing. The claimant was within his rights but he was lucky to be alive to press them. He could just as easily have been dead right. Mr. Justice Collins had some thoughtful words about that aspect in awarding damages. "It is prudent," His Lordship cautioned, "in these days of heavy traffic to keep one's head more or less on a pivot when crossing a street, but in assuming responsibility for an accident there is a great difference between prudence and legal fault. There are still some Vancouver motorists who don't recognize the difference, although the police will prosecute them if they're caught using a horn button instead of a break pedal. The rule as stated by Mr. Justice Collins is: "A motorist cannot violate the law and successfully contend that if the pedestrian had paid attention to the horn the accident would not have happened. The purpose of a horn is to give warning of approaching danger, but the sounding of the horn does not give a right of way to the motorist. The fact that the defendant blew his horn when he saw the pedestrian does not help him. Some motorists, metaphorically speaking, try with their horns literally to blow pedestrians out of their way." — From Vancouver Sun.

Out on the Bath Road, at the edge of Heathrow Airport, there is a public house called The Old Magpies. The old part of the building—whitewashed, thatched, and with indubitably unique timbers—is very old indeed; in fact, the brewers who owned it until recently say firmly that it dates from the thirteenth century. Anyhow, it is old, and now it must be pulled down to make room for the traffic tunnel which will lead into the airport. An American, enamored of The Old Magpies, suggested when he heard of this that he should buy the fabric, have it taken carefully to bits, transported to America, and set up there. Nothing has come of this proposal, and The Old Magpies is to disappear. The last pint was pulled on Monday by some one disguised as Dick Turpin (for the highwayman's favorite haunts) earlier he had held up a stage coach which had trundled out from Ealing. Air hostesses from Heathrow were present to join in those flamboyant farewell celebrations.— Manchester Guardian.

In a letter to the editor of the Christian Science Monitor, a reader suggests that the words "Communist" and "communism."

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