

THE GUARDIAN

Authorized as Second Class Mail Post Office Department, Ottawa. The Island Guardian Publishing Co. Editor and Managing Director, Ian A. Burnett. Associate Editor, Frank Walker. CIRCULATION "Covers Prince Edward Island like the dew" "The strongest memory is weaker than the weakest ink" CHARLOTTETOWN TUESDAY, AUG. 18, 1953

Business Tax

Charlottetown, like many another city, is faced with the dilemma of having to ax its property owners unduly or discouraging businesses from being established which would help the ordinary resident to meet his taxes. The need for revenue is pressing, particularly with the building of a new junior high school in the offing, and the matter of adjusting the tax burden calls for some very fine balancing.

The business tax, which received first and second readings last night, is a necessity if revenues are to keep pace with expenditures; for the owners of real property in the city are already paying more than their fair share of civic costs. It is not a good tax, however, because it may well make the difference between a successful business getting established and failure or a decision to operate elsewhere.

Necessity is a hard taskmaster. The risk must be taken, but the increase over the present personal property tax being paid by business should not be more than the minimum needed. That principle is obviously being kept in mind, for while the general multiple of real estate value is to be 80 per cent for purposes of the business tax, manufacturers and other industries are to be assessed at only 50 per cent, florists 40 per cent, newspapers 35 per cent, hotel and tourist camps 25 per cent, while mail order distributors will be assessed 100 per cent. Occupancy of tax-exempt premises will not avoid the new levy.

Obviously merchants with large inventories or manufacturers with expensive equipment will not be affected by the new tax. They are already paying more on the personal property assessment, but professional men, brokers and other businesses having a relatively light inventory will now be called upon to pay a larger share of the cost of running the city.

Advanced Registry

The importance of Advanced Registry in swine selection is realized in this Province, but less attention is paid in other parts of Canada to the policy, and in the United States breeders have no performance tests on a national or state-recognized basis at all. If Canadian purebred breeders were to use Advanced Registry consistently, and apply the results in the selection of breeding stock, tremendous progress would result. This is the conclusion reached by Mr. H. T. Fredeen, animal husbandman at the Experimental Station, Lacombe, Alberta, who contributes an interesting article on the subject to The Country Guide.

Mr. Fredeen points out that if maximum progress is to be realized, selection must be based upon the performance of tested litter mates. "Advanced Registry has been in effect for more than 20 years, but we must admit that during that period, little or no improvement has been made in the performance of purebred Yorkshires. To realize this one has only to examine the annual average performance of the pigs tested, or the annual grading averages of commercial hogs. These averages have remained almost unchanged.

"This," he emphasizes, "is not a fault of the policy. A similar policy has worked very well indeed, in Denmark. A few Canadian breeders have utilized Advanced Registry to great advantage. Results have been obtained in a very short space of time in Prince Edward Island; and the results of the 'high-low' experiment prove that it can be done.

"It is important to remember, however, that while selection of breeding stock should be based on Advanced Registry for generation after generation, this, alone, is not sufficient. The breeder must also make certain that he selects the best pigs from high-scoring litters—best from the standpoint of growth, vigor and constitution. These factors, when taken together, can mean the difference between profit and loss in swine production.

"Much unfavorable publicity for Advanced Registry has resulted from the purchase of tail-ender boars from high-scoring A. R. litters and getting unsatisfactory breeding performance from them. Equally unfavorable publicity results from the performance of stock sold as 'from a qualified dam', when actually the litter that qualified the sow was by a different and much superior boar."

American Potato Yearbook

The 1953 edition of the American Potato Yearbook has just come off the press. It is again edited by John C. Campbell, Rutgers University College of Agriculture, and contains 76 pages of vital information to the potato grower, shipper, dealer and all those with an interest in the potato industry.

Of special significance is the article on "The Development of Seed Potato Certification in the United States" by E. L. Newdick, Chief Division of Plant Industry, Maine Department of Agriculture. Another feature in this year's volume is the list of research projects with the names of individuals engaged in conducting research on Irish potatoes in every part of the country. There is also a complete and up-to-date list of recent references to potato culture in the United States as well as the names of the one hundred leading potato growing counties.

Other interesting items include articles on potato varieties, potato production, rules and regulations affecting the shipment of seed potatoes, a list of leading United States and Canadian associations engaged in the improvement of the potato industry together with the names of United States and Canadian seed certification officials. The Yearbook also gives information on how and where to secure helpful brochures and leaflets covering every phase of the potato industry.

The new volume also contains much statistical information of value. There are tabulations by states of both seed and table stock production as well as statistics on Canadian and world potato production.

A Lot Of Talk

The official report of the Parliament of Canada, for the average full-length session, notes the Ottawa Journal, runs about 5,000 pages, including Commons and Senate. In Washington they have the quaint device of permitting legislators to "extend" their remarks—that is, to have printed in the Congressional Record speeches that never were made, quotations and documents never read, and all sorts of the most incredible literary odds and ends.

The result is that from the beginning of the session on January 3 to the end of July the Congressional Record ran to 16,211 pages which had cost the taxpayers \$1,371,724. Since then 535 pages have been added, and the end is not yet. The Record is still coming out every day even though Congress prorogued on August 4, will be making its appearance regularly until August 28 with "extended" remarks of the dauntless legislators.

The statistics show another interesting fact, and one quite at variance with Canadian practice—in Washington the senators talk longer and sit longer than do members of the House of Representatives. The Senate was in session 123 days and 743 hours, using (to July 31) 6,479 pages of the Record. The Representatives used 4,533 pages with their impassioned oratory in sessions lasting 491 hours spread over 115 days.

EDITORIAL NOTES

In this motorized age the traffic policeman is often a community's first and most remembered contact with visitors. A recent story from Summerside indicates that the Prince County capital is fortunate in the impression made on visitors.

Recent announcements that Russia has stocks of H-bombs and guided-missile bases, not to mention improvements on Second World War "buzz bombs", should cause little surprise. The publication may do some good in dissipating the tendency, particularly amongst Americans, to place reliance on possession of stocks of atomic weapons. Such confidence hindered rather than helped efforts to achieve international solidarity.

The merger of the Massey-Harris Company and Harry Ferguson Companies into Massey-Harris-Ferguson Limited is an event that cannot be ignored in the agricultural world. There will be those, of course, who see the farmer being put at a greater disadvantage in dealing with such a great almost world-wide maker of farm implements, but there is no doubt that great advantages can be obtained by the integration of farm equipment design.

Etienne de La Boetie, French writer, died this date 1563. The themes "Liberty" and "Friendship" inspired the short career of this early republican. "Liberty is so noble and pleasant a thing," he wrote, "that every evil follows upon its loss and even the good things which remain lose all their taste, tainted by servitude." Montaigne, in his "Essays", tried to protect the memory of his friend as a model and peace-loving citizen.

One Of The Questions: PARTY



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.

SKILLED AND UNSKILLED

Sir,—In your column "Island Odds and Ends" which appeared in yesterday's issue, it was stated that a good proportion of the skilled men were obtained from Europe and seemed to infer that the men obtained from Prince Edward Island and other points in the Maritime were employed simply as helpers and assistants. I would like the public to understand that by far the greater proportion of skilled men and especially the men in key positions are Maritime men, and not one European is, or has been, employed in a key position. I am, Sir, etc. CHARLES LAWLOR.

Old Charlottetown (And P. E. I.)

OLD TIME PLOWING MATCH "The ploughing match which was advertised to take place at New Perth this month, by order of the Exhibition Commissioners, had to be postponed on account of the weather, till yesterday, when it came off in a field belonging to Mr. Daniel McDonald, Jr., of that place. The judges were Daniel McDonald, Esq., sr., Daniel Gordon, Esq., of New Perth, and Mr. Andrew Hayden, of Rosemeath, who awarded the prizes as follows: 1st, John Smith, New Perth, £1. 15s. 2nd, William McLaren, New Perth, £1. 5s. 3rd, John McInhin, New Perth, £1. 4th, Duncan McIntyre, Rosemeath, 10s. 5th, Daniel Shaw, New Perth, 5s.

"Mr. Smith, of New Perth, one of the Commissioners, and Mr. McDonald, of Georgetown, the indefatigable secretary of the Exhibition, were early on the ground, and staked of the field in ridges, 13 1/2 yards wide, 9 yards to be gathered up in the centre, the ploughman then to throw out the space between himself and his neighbor. Each ploughman drew lots for his position, and about 10 o'clock the teams started.

"It soon became evident that in cutting and laying over a 6 by 9 furrow the iron ploughs, of which there were two, were getting the better of their wooden rivals. One of these, a Scotch plough worked by Mr. Smith, carried off the first prize. The other (Mr. McLaren's) was constructed by Mr. Allan Stewart, of Southport. The work done by these ploughs was of very fair quality, the furrows being smooth, evenly cut, and well put together.

"Daniel Shaw, the youngest ploughman on the field, although fifth on the list acquitted himself creditably. His erect, manly bearing, and the easy grace with which he held the shafts and managed his team, plainly indicated that at no distant day he will become a master workman. "Messrs. McInhin and McIntyre opened and finished their ridges straight and well, but having to cut beyond their ordinary depth, the inferiority of their ploughs was manifest. Their furrows were neither so smooth nor evenly laid as those cut by the iron ploughs. About 4 o'clock the last team left the field. "Perhaps not the least interesting part of the day's proceedings was the presence in the evening with their teacher, of the children attending the district school. The boys looked with admiring wonder at the straight and even furrows, and, no doubt, anticipated the time when they too will be promoted to the command of a team, and perhaps, permitted to gather laurels from the field."

The Sick Man of Europe

Montreal Gazette "We have on our hands a sick man—a very sick man." So said Nicholas I, the Czar of Russia, more than a century ago. The "sick man of Europe" in these days was Turkey.

But now the same words have been applied to France. And they have been applied by Paul Reynaud, a former French premier. "France today," he says, "is the sick man of Europe." Certainly France has been reduced to chaos. Four million workers have left their jobs. Even the essential services, which keep any big modern city alive, have broken down. The general collapse has come about because Premier Laniel has decreed certain measures he believes necessary to save France from financial ruin. The measures call for harder work and more economic discipline.

There are various reasons, of course, that partially explain the violent resistance to Premier Laniel's proposals. He did not sufficiently prepare the ground. He began imposing harder conditions upon the Government employees, who are already a rather underpaid class.

The old question arose: "Why does the Government pick on us to pay the price of economic salvation?" The fact that Premier Laniel had himself a man of wealth hardly improves his influence in imposing austerities. And back of it all lies the long unsettlement of France, the rising prices, the difficulty in making ends meet, and all the weary frustrations and anxieties that have lingered on year after year, under government after government.

Yet it is a mistake to consider the present disturbances as wholly explained by present causes. The causes lie deep. In fact, if anyone turns back the newspaper files to this same month in 1938 he may read today's story all over again. At that time Premier Daladier of France had demanded that certain measures "be taken for the protection of the currency and the defence of the State." His proposals were similar in purpose to those just advanced by Premier Laniel. And the result was the same. Strikes broke out across the country, and the prestige of France fell rapidly.

"After unyoking their horses the ploughmen and other friends sat down to a substantial dinner provided by Mr. McDonald, and passed the evening very pleasantly together. "From scenes like these Prince Edward's grandeur springs." —The Islander, Nov. 21, 1871.

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The Passing Scene

By Observer. A CHAT WITH MR. X.

I have had a pleasant and intellectually profitable chat with an American politician (Democrat) of some note. He happened along a few days after our general election. While he had no objection to my making a brief report of our talk he did ask me not to mention his name. I will therefore call him Mr. X, and simply say by way of introduction that he is well and favourably known in American political circles.

I asked Mr. X what he thought of our election results. He replied that so far as he knew no one in the United States who cares about such matters expected any other result. "In fact," he said, "we have long since given up expecting any change in Canadian Governments." I then asked him if he felt that the present administration would like to have seen a change in Ottawa, since it is generally assumed that the Republicans have more in common with the Conservatives than with the Liberals.

On this question he seemed to be of the opinion that the Republican leaders had no preference one way or the other. President Eisenhower, apparently, is not so keen on personal contacts with friendly nations as Mr. Roosevelt was during his long tenure. He then went on to tell me that so far as the American public is concerned not one in a thousand persons could name the Prime Minister of Canada.

Personally I think his figures were out of line. Not one in ten thousand would probably be more correct. So perhaps in this aspect of political reciprocity at any rate Canadians can more than hold their own with the Americans. It is a safe bet that at least every other person in this country could name offhand the President of the United States.

We discussed at some length the similarities and differences between our respective electoral systems. Like most Americans who bother to give the matter any thought Mr. X finds it difficult to understand the method by which we elect the executive head of government. And when I tried to explain the formula by which the Prime Minister is named to his post by the Governor-General without in any way doing damage to our free election system, he seemed more confused than ever. "The fact is," he said, "only a small minority of the Canadian people have any hand in election of the Prime Minister." Which is, I suppose, accurate in detail but inaccurate in the overall picture.

"In the United States," he went on, "everybody has a chance to vote for the Presidential nominee." This is a popular American belief notwithstanding the obvious fact that no one actually votes for the President but only for a list of men known as "electors" who later on choose the President. In practice it works out alright inasmuch as the popular will is the final arbiter, but theoretically it is the most complicated system imaginable.

Our own system is as plain as A B C in comparison and, one cannot help thinking, more democratic in principle; but there is no way of making the average American, even the average American politician, see it in that light. The hitch, of course, as Americans see it, is the part played by the Governor-General. "Why," they ask, "should anyone have the right to name the Prime Minister after he has been elected by vote, and why is it that all Canadians do not have a chance to vote directly for the man they want to head the Government?" To most Canadians I fancy the answers to these questions are simple enough, but they are not

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The Poet's Corner

PENETRALIA There is a secrecy in Nature that is strong Within the silence of a tree The Druids knew it in their green shrines, And worshipped! It is the power that lifts the woe That moves the star— Immutably as God. It is the fragrance of the flower That waits within the sod. —Charlotte Bouche

The Age Old Story

It is written in the prophets And they shall be all caught up. God, Every man therefore that hath learned of the Father, cometh unto me. Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me hath everlasting life.