

THE GUARDIAN

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CIRCULATION

"Covers Prince Edward Island like the dew"

"The Strongest Memory is Weaker Than
the Weakest Ink"

CHARLOTTETOWN, WEDNESDAY, NOV. 26, 1952

Challenge And Response

"In 1880 almost half our (Canadian) total employment was in farming; until 1940 a third was in agriculture; now only 1/5th."

In a speech notable for its optimism, Mr. W. R. Carroll made the above statement which, on the face of it, is grounds for anything but optimism. Cities notoriously do not even reproduce their own population. They draw heavily on rural populations for their continued existence as well as to grow. A decline in rural population in a very short time means the end of the growth of our great cities.

The shift in population from the country to cities presents a Toynbean problem of challenge and response. The challenge is there. On whether we can meet it with an effective response depends the future course of civilization in this country at least. The challenge is to provide a way of life in the country which offers attractions at least equal to those of the city.

In this materialistic age that means first that incomes from the farm must be on a par with those possible in other walks of life. The era of cheap food which we became familiar with between the two world wars cannot be permitted to return. The amenities of modern life, electricity, transportation, education, entertainment and the rest must be equally available to the farmer as to the city dweller.

The alternative is to have high priced food in short supply when the trek to the cities has gone on for a while. It would be better to accept the requirement of sound farm prices while it is still possible to provide food in abundance.

Longer Productive Years

Addressing the Canadian Association of Occupational Therapists at their recent meeting in London, Ontario, Dr. Hugh McAlpine touched on a subject of vital interest to an increasing number of Canadian citizens. He urged a national program to deal satisfactorily with the problems of those who have reached the forced retirement age. He advocated an increase in the working-life span, particularly in view of the fact that man is now living longer. The working period is from 20 to 65. In 1900 the worker could expect three years after retirement. By 1975 he can expect 10 years after 65. "Man's aim," said Dr. McAlpine, "should be to add life to years, not just years to life." His statement recalls what Hon. M. F. Gregg, Federal Minister of Labor, told the Women's Canadian Club in Montreal, that the idea of forcibly retiring a worker at a specific age is archaic. However, National Employment Service records show that 30 per cent of all registered unemployed are more than 45 and that 10 per cent are more than 65.

The London physician called for a more flexible employment system, geared to a person's capacity to work, not to his chronological age. His argument from economics is that at present eight working persons are supporting one person over 65. Old age pensions and old age institutions, he said, are not the answer. The person over 60 must be permitted to produce, if he can. If he cannot produce then his leisure time must be made more enjoyable. Geriatrics, the study of old age, is doing a great deal to help him by a study of diet in age.

Wettest Woodlot On Earth

For the last three years, in a patch of woods in southern New Jersey, millions of gallons of water have hissed from gun-like spray nozzles as man-made rain. Strange changes have taken place. Where once was an ordinary scrub-oak woodlot, a jungle now grows.

Measured against world's record rains (Cherrapunji, India, was doused with 1,041 inches in 12 months, and averages 426 inches a year), this spot in New Jersey has the wettest forest on earth, the National Geographic Society says. The region's normal rainfall is 41 inches a year, but these few acres have received up to 1,200 inches in a year's time.

The jungle stands on Seabrook Farm, a huge mechanized vegetable garden and processing plant near the town of Bridgeton. Largest combined truck farm and frozen food factory in the nation, Seabrook Farms cover about 20,000 acres of rich flatlands

in Cumberland and Salem Counties west of Atlantic City. Its cannery and freezing plant uses 12,000,000 gallons of water a day at the peak of the packing season. Disposing of so much water was a serious problem.

After trying various methods of purifying the outflow, the company had almost decided to invest a million dollars in a biofilter installation—gravel beds in which vegetable scraps and other wastes in the water would be consumed by bacteria.

Johns Hopkins University, however, has a laboratory for the study of climate at Seabrook Farms. As a last resort, the climatologists tried spraying the river of waste water back on the land, in hope that the ground itself could be turned into a huge filter. The first tests in an unused open field of clover failed. The soil soaked up only so much water, then turned to soup. But when the spray nozzles were moved to the edge of a patch of woods, an amazing thing happened. No matter how much water was sprayed into the woods, it was soaked up as fast as it fell—50 inches of man-made rain in ten hours, and since 1949 up to 100 feet of water a year in certain spots.

When Seabrook's project began, the spray area looked like any other wooded area on the coastal plain. Scattered underbrush, slender second-growth oak, and poison ivy grew in the sandy soil. Today, it is as if the woods cannot grow fast enough. Seeds germinate that would otherwise have been dormant. Small shrubs and vines twist together into a solid mat of greenery. Through the jungle-woods run far larger than normal numbers of small animals such as wood mice.

Scientists studying the changes in plant and animals life have to hack their way through this outdoor laboratory with machetes. The U. S. Geological Survey is interested in the effects of the spraying on ground water level in the surrounding area. Seabrook Farms is trying to unravel the secret of why the woods will soak up so much water while open fields of the same soil will not. What had farming done to this soil? Can field crops be improved with tremendous doses of water?

If a jungle can be grown in the woods, perhaps more peas, potatoes, beets and spinach might spring from earth soaked far beyond its normal saturation point. The possibility is being explored.

EDITORIAL NOTES

The port of Montreal has had a record season and in all likelihood the carry-over of grain and other products will result in a similar winter boom for Maritime ports.

The Viking spirit is certainly not dead in Scandinavia. The flight of the "Arild Vikin" across the Arctic from Los Angeles to Copenhagen by way of Edmonton and Thule is in the best tradition of Eric the Red.

The Maritime Recreation Centre in Montreal should prove a boon to Maritimers in that city. But what will become of the life of the city when Maritime functions are in progress?

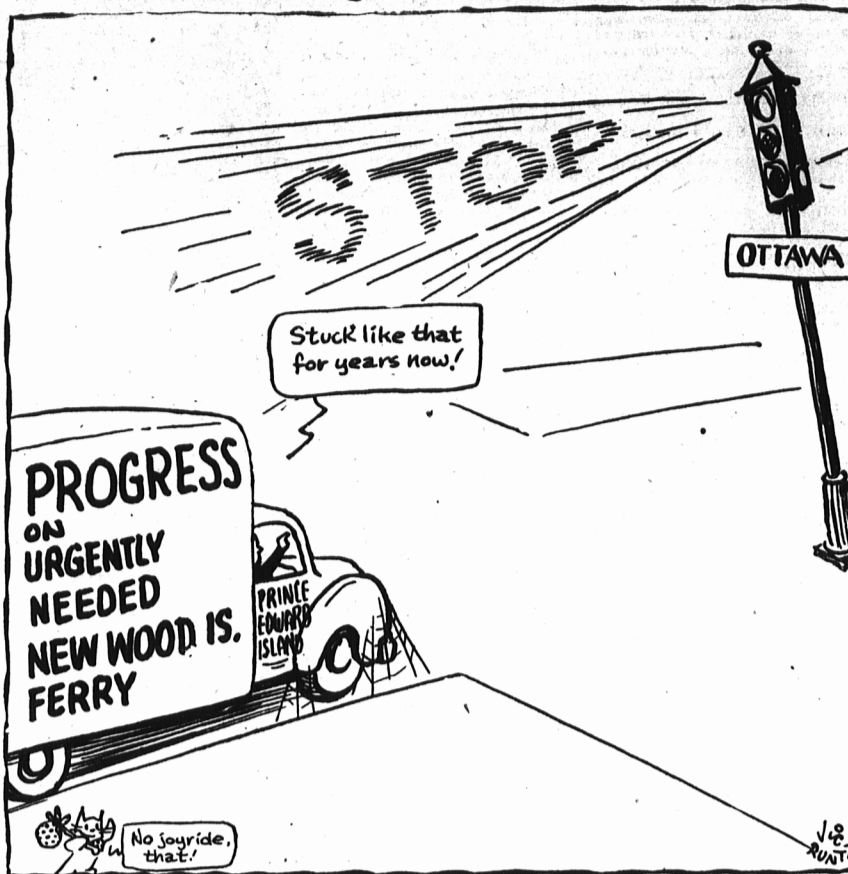
A committee of the Legion in Summerside is engaged in counting households in an effort to show that there is the necessary 2,000 for daily house-to-house mail delivery. If the quality of civic spirit rather than mere numbers were the criterion there would be no doubt about the Prince County capital qualifying.

Britain is now the second largest exporter of agricultural machinery in the world, and Canada the third, according to a report recently published for the Commonwealth Economic Committee. After the United States with 51 per cent of total world exports, come Britain with 21 per cent, Canada with 12 per cent and Germany with 9 per cent.

The R. C. A. F.'s Ground Observer Corps, after some contradictory policy statements from Ottawa, is now in process of being organized locally. With the speed of modern aircraft the time permitted for reports to be transmitted and acted upon is very short indeed. To be of any use at all the Corps must be brought to a very high state of efficiency.

Sir Leander Star Jameson, M. D., British colonial statesman, died this date 1917. After a breakdown in London he set up a successful practice in Kimberley. He used his influence with Lobengula to enable Cecil Rhodes to establish The British South African Company. The doctor was appointed administrator of Mashonaland. He checked a Boer trek and a Matabele invasion, conquering Matabeleland instead. His ill fated raid into the Transvaal led eventually to the Boer War. Later, as Premier, he did much to develop the resources and improve education in South Africa.

Still Waiting For A Green Light



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.

FREEDOM

Sir—It is a notable fact that many people are jealous of what they claim to be their rights. Some drivers, even yet, hog the road. It used to be common, but, fortunately, not so now. They were over-jealous of their rights. They considered it their right to do as they pleased.

The live fence has been a fruitful source of contention, between neighbours. In a charge I had some years ago, two men quarrelled over where the line should be. The stronger man got the other down. Along came the big son of the fallen man and with a cant-dog in his hands threatened to knock the brains out of his enemy if he did not let his father up. It might easily have been a tragedy. All over a few feet of land. Jealousy for rights.

Many rebel against prohibition because they claim it interferes with their freedom and they take pleasure in breaking the law as an independent virtue but a by-product, generated from a life of service. We are born for each other. We cannot live without each other; and every act of ours must have regard for its effect upon others. Our conduct, in every case, must be governed, not by our desire for freedom, but by its effect upon the welfare of others. A good driver will never forget the welfare of others, rather than his own freedom. Whether a man likes liquor or not is not the important point but what will be the effect of his example upon others. More than half the young men who drink began from the example of older men. There we recall St. Paul's declaration: "I will eat no meat (or I will take no drink) while the world standeth lest I make my brother to stumble." Looked at in this light drinking may be a sin, and it usually is. Swearing must be judged in the same way. Little children will swear like troopers because they learned the habit from their fathers.

Not freedom to do as one likes, but service, was a great word with Jesus. He was ever rubbing it into his followers. "The greatest servant" Jesus said, "is the greatest man". What foot-washing capped all his teaching. It shocked the disciples but they had to be taught until they learned they could be great men. Is it the hardest lesson we have to learn? Very likely it is. I am Sir, etc

W. I. GREEN
Stanley Bridge.

Old Charlottetown

(And P. E. I.)

LANDLORDS' COMPLAINTS

The Tenants Compensation Act, 1871, was the subject of many complaints by the landed proprietors of this Colony. The other side of the story, emphasizing the tenants' grievances, has been given frequently in this column. It is but fair to point out that the landlords also felt that their case had justification. The following excerpts are from a memorial addressed to Lord Kimberley, Secretary of State, by Robert Bruce Stewart, James F. Montgomery, Henry C. and John Douse, John and Alfred Winsloe, John A. Macdonell and William Cundall, Esqs.:

"On the estate of one of your memorialists, inherited from his late father, there were at one time several tenancies at will, but the tenants having for twenty years been enabled to evade the action of both common and statute law by means of open and violent resistance to the officers of the law, or by other means, at length by possession for twenty years, without either having paid rent or being evicted for non-payment, the said tenants by the peculiar administration or operation of the law in this Colony, had become practically the owners 'de facto' of the lands, to the great loss and detriment of the real owners 'de jure' the law which in practice had been powerless and useless on behalf of the landlord suddenly becoming abundantly powerful and strong on behalf of the dishonest tenant."

"The tenants in this Colony are under much more favorable circumstances than in Great Britain or Ireland; the burdens of rates and taxes fall comparatively very lightly upon them, the only really onerous and oppressive tax being exclusively born by the proprietors—namely, the land assessment upon their unproductive wilderness land, an avowedly penal tax levied for the express purpose of wresting their property from them."

"It is a fact that the first year's produce frequently pays the entire labour or cost of chopping, piling and burning the forest, previously grown upon the land; to say nothing of the firewood sold at a good price. Draining is as yet almost wholly unknown and is not generally requisite in this Colony, the soil being in general a light loam very easily worked at little cost."

"Although many farms have increased in value since the commencement of the existing leases by the lapse of time, and the increased value of all property, nevertheless a farm cleared by the tenant of all its valuable timber and firewood and impoverished by bad farming is frequently

The Poet's Corner

ABANDONED ACRES

Time brings too many changes. Is it well That this house once a honeycomb of joy Should be in ruins and the rafters tell Their story to the wind? Once girl and boy Ran through these rooms and laughter like a scale Of liquid crystal swept this tangled glen; Here in the red barn stands the empty stall, The hayrick was not filled with hay again. What gypsy longings drove them down the world Seeking some useless fortune in a far Strange country that they left behind these pearly And dewy fields? Oh that some ruby star Might lead them back and so by their return Put elder in the mill, cream in the churn.

—Harold Vinal in the Christian Science Monitor.

of much less value than it would be if it were at this present time in its natural condition of forest land.

"On the other hand, the value of a farm has frequently been increased by the direct act of the proprietor in opening roads, making bridges, assistance to schools and churches, etc. One of your memorialists has at his own cost made more than twenty miles of roads upon his property with many bridges thereon; to which must be added the remission of many years of rent by your memorialists, which remission has enabled the tenants to improve their holdings by so much the more than they could otherwise have done."

"In some instances the proprietors of large tracts of township lands in this Colony have leased portions of them for 999 years at a rent of one shilling per acre per annum, these lands being in general back lands, remote from markets. This circumstance can have no weight with regard to such portions of their lands as, for various reasons, they thought fit to lease for short periods, and more especially as such short leases have almost invariably allowed the tenant to enjoy the use of his holding for a certain time at a peppercorn rent, and afterwards at a gradually increasing rent; such easy terms being accorded for the express purpose of enabling the tenant to make improvements, few or none of such leases being for less than

Notes By The Way

Any creature that becomes over-placed immediately becomes a ready source of food and is given special attention by all other animals that can utilize it. Such balances tend to keep all species at a reasonable level, thus preventing "plagues" of insects or rodents. If the control is unbalanced by man, the plagues can be terribly destructive.—Sylvia.

Mr. Drew offers to pay for a one-way ticket to any Canadian Commies and pinks who would journey to the other side of the "iron curtain" and (this is an important condition) stay there. But of course there will be no takers. Try to persuade one of such people to quit the safety and security of life in Canada for the doubtful blessing of a Red state!—Ottawa Journal.

Ten years ago an eight-year-old boy was hit by a car and hurled 40 feet through the air. Ten years later he was the Phantom Sniper who faced three charges of attempted murder and seven counts of housebreaking in Toronto—the result of mental illness caused by the traffic accident. The tragic story began with a traffic accident. Up to that time the boy was just like any other normal youngster.—Sudbury Star.

The difference between a bush pilot and the "taxi route" airline pilot lies not so much in the man as in the different work methods. Airline operators from all over Canada met in convention in Quebec, where airline operators and bush operators sat down to mull over the shortage of from 500 to 1,000 pilots. The men from the airlines said the pilots were paid from \$12,000 to \$14,000 a year and allowed to work about 85 hours a month. This was not enough to attract young men to a flying career. Bush operators said they faced no shortage as yet, and said a number of pilots from the big airlines were constantly seeking employment with them after they wearied of the "taxi-driver routine."—Sudbury Star.

Stick-up men must dread finding a woman standing guard beside a cash register. They never can be sure how she'll react, or with what. An example of this ponderable turned up in England the other day, when a masked would-be thief walked into a store and with his best snarl said: "This is a holdup." "Don't be silly, as she purified herself," will stick these knitting needles into you." The holdup man and his three companions did about the only thing they could do under the circumstances. They fled. Shortly before that, a woman in an American city dealt similarly with a comparable situation. "Hand over your money," ordered the

twenty years, and many of them being for ninety-nine years. Many holders of such leases have entered upon the land without a single pound of capital, and from the cultivation of such land have amassed sufficient money to buy the fee-simple of their farms."

Canadians should be pleased with a New York Times article on the U.N. Assembly's President Lester B. Pearson. For Canadians, this Assembly meeting will be closely watched, for one of our own is at the helm. It would be a great tribute to Pearson's efforts for world peace if some miracles could be worked. But we cannot expect the impossible. Frequently, Americans misinterpret this country. But the Times article indicates that that paper understands us and our best known son, warning us Canada's attitude toward the U. S. is the use of Pearson's own words: "We hope that in Washington they appreciate having in neighbors who are happy to tell them frankly and in the American idiom when they are going off the rails in their international policies." It could not have been better put.—Financial Post.

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