

THE GUARDIAN

Authorized as Second Class Mail Post Office Department, Ottawa. The Island Guardian Publishing Co.

President and Associate Editor, 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, SEPT. 30, 1952

A Great Humanist

Our world can ill afford to lose its great teachers and philosophers, and such a one passed away in Rome on Sunday in the person of George Santayana. He had lived a full life, and had reached the ripe age of eighty-eight. In all his literary work, which included verse as well as prose, he upheld the great humanist traditions. An example of the former appears in today's Poet's Corner. As for his philosophic studies, they have enriched the minds of generations of readers on both sides of the Atlantic. Here, for example, is a characteristic excerpt on Homer's "Iliad" and the legend of the Trojan War. It requires nothing but its own light to read it by:

"There is an obscure story that after the fall of Troy Helen never returned to Sparta but was spirited away to Egypt, whilst a mere phantasm resembling her accompanied the dull husband to his dull fastness by the pebbly Eurotas. This turn given to the fable hints darkly at the unearthly truth. Helen was a phantom always and everywhere; so long as men fought for her, taking her image, as it were, for their banner, she presided over a most veritable and bloody battle; but when the battle ceased of itself, and all those heroes that had seen and idolized her were dead, the cerulean colours of that banner faded from it; the shreds of it rotted indistinguishably in the mire, and the hues that had lent it for a moment its terrible magic fled back into the ether, where wind and mist, meteors and sunbeams, never cease to weave them. The passing of Helen was the death of Greece, but Helen herself is its immortality."

Is not this true of all great legends, when truly interpreted? The sceptic sees nothing in them but factual distortions; the poet, the artist, the philosopher, seeks to penetrate to the root of their meaning, more important than any facts, and interpret them in terms of his own day and age. This goes to the root of the whole controversy over the value of classical studies in our schools and colleges. It is their humanizing element that is of value; and the more emphasis we place on scientific and factual studies, the more necessary is it to stress the cultural values. In the words of Tennyson:

"Let knowledge grow from more to more,

But more of reverence in us dwell, That mind and heart, according well, May make one music as before."

Santayana was a master in the art of keeping this delicate balance adjusted.

Railway Freight Rates

The latest contest over freight rates now being waged before the Board of Transport Commissioners represents the fourth round in a battle that began in 1946. The railways, notes the Ottawa Citizen, have won a series of rate increases in the face of strenuous opposition from most of the provincial governments, which have delayed though not prevented the upward course of tolls.

Each application, including the present one, is for a horizontal increase expressed in terms of a percentage of the then existing rates. Thus there is a pyramiding process. The allowable ceiling on railway freight rates, as a result, now stands 70 percent above the immediate post-war level, and if the current pair of applications (8 percent followed by 9 percent) is granted in full, it will rise to 100 percent. In other words, permissible freight rates would be double what they were just before the first increase was granted in March 1948.

Yet rates do not automatically rise everywhere by the percentages allowed by the Transport Board. Where competition from truck and water transport is a potent factor, they are held down. "This," the Ottawa Citizen is at pains to point out, "explains why Ontario and Quebec, the chief beneficiaries of alternative forms of transportation, have never shown much interest in these interminable and dreary rate cases. The Western and Maritime Provinces, on the other hand, are aware that the main burden of increases must fall upon them, since what essential revenue the railways fall to gain in one geographic region they must try to make up in another."

This is of course the crux of the situation, about which the Provinces thus discriminated against have been complaining all along.

The railways are hit in two ways by their most formidable modern competitors, the trucks. They lose a substantial volume of business outright, and to retain the balance they must charge less than would otherwise be the case, having regard to the mounting post-war costs of labor and materials. The Turgeon Royal Commission on Transportation, however, was set up to find, among other things, a solution to this problem. Its recommendations were not entirely satisfactory to the Maritime Provinces in this respect, but at least every effort should be made to implement them, in spirit as well as in letter before resorting to further horizontal increases.

Mr. Mathieson's Departure

In leaving this Province for the West Mr. David L. Mathieson, Q.C., is following a family tradition. His father returned, eventually to become Chief Justice, but his grandfather, the Hon. David Leard, gave his talents as a peacemaker in the Northwest Indian troubles in 1877 and 1899 and as first Governor of the Northwest Territories.

Despite its naturalness in such a family, Mr. Mathieson's decision to leave for Alberta is a very real cause for regret to his many friends and to the community at large. He has been an ornament to the Bar of this Province and has set a fine example of public spirit in his participation in the affairs of the Legislature, as well as in all matters relating to the public welfare.

He and Mrs. Mathieson will have the best wishes of all our citizens in the new life upon which they are entering, and it is to be hoped they will find frequent opportunity of revisiting their native Province in the years to come.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Correspondents are reminded that with letters to the Public Forum the writer's name and address must be submitted as evidence of good faith.

It is an old story that political trends follow similar paths in various parts of the world. In both Washington and Cairo the burning question of the moment is the financial integrity of political leaders.

From last to second place in three years is the remarkable stride this Province has made in the matter of school sanitation. Premier Jones and the Women's Institutes share the credit for stressing the importance of the matter.

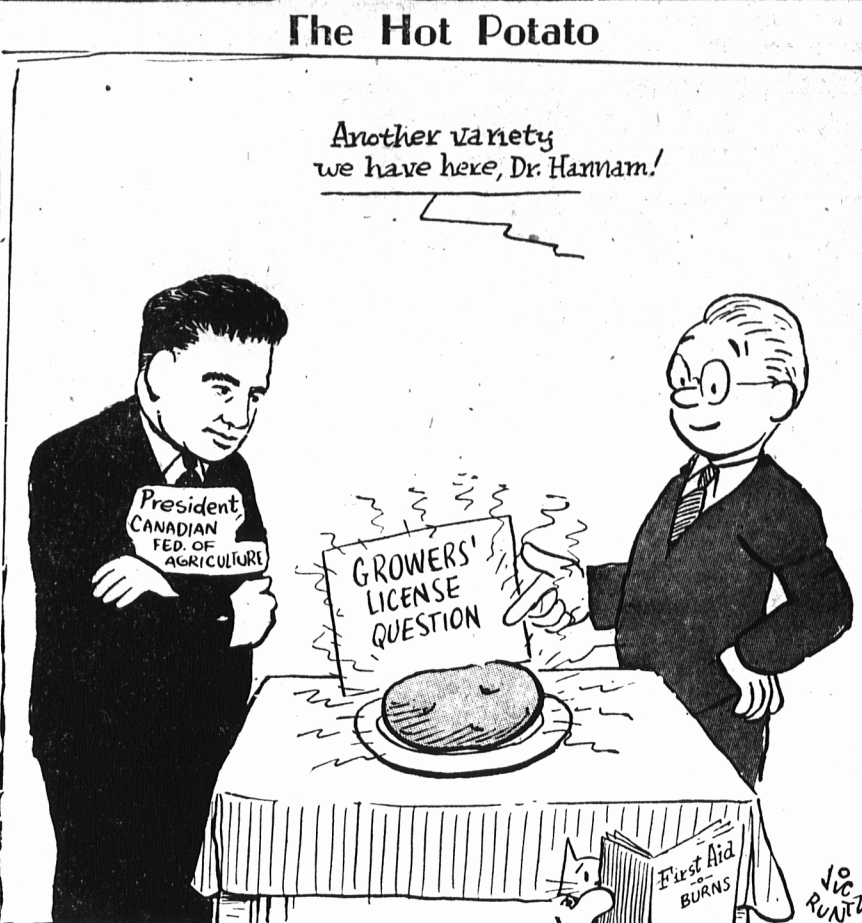
Tonight's meeting of potato growers is as much a test case for the Potato Marketing Board as were the court proceedings. The verdict, however, will be that of public opinion, an indication of the extent to which farmers are in favour of controlled marketing.

The Battle of Hastings, 1066 and all that, is not altogether finished despite the passage of nearly nine hundred years. A group of citizens of Battle, Sussex, are protesting against a proposed housing scheme which they fear will mar the battlefield where Norman vanquished Saxon.

The Norwegian Ministry of Social Affairs is supplying all wards in Norwegian Hospitals with at least one work of art, reports UNESCO. About 5,000 coloured lithographs—the work of thirteen well-known contemporary artists—have already been sent out to the country's 400 hospitals, and another 2,500 will be distributed this autumn.

Sir Charles Viliers Stanford, great British musician, was born one hundred years ago today. An Irishman from Dublin, Stanford was known as a child prodigy at the piano and at musical composition. He spent most of his life as Professor of Music at Cambridge and Professor of Composition at the Royal College of Music, London. He did much to free English music from the spell of German classicism.

Among the many interests of the late Mr. A. J. Matheson, of O'Leary, was the history of this Province, and in the course of years he had accumulated a fine private museum of historical relics which attracted the attention of visitors far and wide. This was but one phase of his many-sided character, in which zeal for everything connected with the welfare of his community and *Provincie* predominated. He took active part in church and Sunday school affairs, and was widely known throughout the Maritimes in this connection. In politics he was a strong Liberal and one of the stalwarts of the West Prince Liberal Association. But he was no narrow partisan and enjoyed the respect and esteem of all classes for his integrity and public spirit.



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.

POTATO BOARD DEFENDED

Sir.—There have been some expressions of unfavorable opinion about the Potato Marketing Board recently, and I feel that its supporters should be heard from. Possibly the most outstanding bias against the Board was that of Mr. R. Victor Inman, appearing in this column on September 27th. Mr. Inman contends that the Board did nothing during the period of poor prices when the 1950 crop was being sold and "went to sleep" when the 1951 crop was being marketed.

The fact is that, if it weren't for the Island Board, in co-operation with the New Brunswick Board, setting prices as high as conditions at the time would permit, Island farmers would have received only a meagre fraction of the pitiful amount they got for their 1950 crop. It is common knowledge that, when the 1951 crop was being marketed, our Board's activities were curtailed because its rights were being questioned in the courts.

The Potato Marketing Board paid its way many times over in the 1950-51 season and will do so again. Some of the potato dealers are knocking the Board in the hope that they will destroy it and thus bring a return of the day when they will have the farmers at their mercy. Let us farmers not be grudge the Board the money it needs to carry on its work on our behalf.

I am, Sir, etc. DOUGLAS MACFARLANE, Bedeque, P. E. I.

POTATO MARKETING

Sir.—When the seed potato business started to be an important one to this Island, there was one man who aspired to control the marketing of the whole crop through a co-operative. They certainly sold potatoes in immense quantities, in the Virginia, New Jersey, and Long Island. But whose potatoes were they?

Did they have a dollar invested in the crop? Not one cent! By trying to handle all the potatoes, they quite often got caught with heavy commitments on an advancing market, and only for the loyalty to the organization shown by the members, a great many sales would never have been filled, and you can guess what this would have done to the potato business.

A few of us stood it as long as we could, but when, one fall we could have sold our crop at 60 to 70 cents per bushel to independent dealers, and our re-

The Poet's Corner

CREDO

What riches have you that you deem me poor. Or what large comfort that I call me sad? Is your earth happy or your heaven sure? I hope for heaven, since the stars endure And bring such tidings as our fathers had. I know no deeper doubt to make me mad. I need no brighter love to keep me pure. To me the faiths of old are daily bread; I bless their hope, I bless their will to save, I know no heart still meaner than they said. It makes me happy that the soul is brave, And being so much kinsman to the dead I walk contented to the peopled grave. —George Santayana

The Hot Potato

Another variety we have here, Dr. Hannam!

The Age-Old Story

Wherefore, my beloved, as ye have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling. For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure.

Old Charlottetown

A popular figure in early Island newspaper days was Mr. J. H. Fletcher, who established the "Island Argus" in 1868 and edited it capably until 1882 when he took over the "Record." Mr. Fletcher travelled extensively as a lecturer and was known in this capacity, as well as for his gargantuan physique, far beyond the bounds of his native Province. In this connection The Examiner of June 1883 quoted the following item from the "Gothic Record," of Copper Creek, California:

"On Monday the bridge across Copper Creek shook, and groaned under the ponderous weight of 215 pounds avoirdupois of a Prince Edward Island lecturer. He came on foot for the reason that no one in Crested Butte had a horse that would carry double."

The "Colorado Springs Weekly Republic," quoting the above excerpt, added in a more kindly vein: "This means that the large-bodied, large-brained and large-souled editor of the 'Record,' Mr. J. H. Fletcher, has arrived from his Prince Edward Island home."

Let us have all the co-ops or their like, but leave the free independent dealers as well as themselves freedom to sell when and where they wish.

I am, Sir, etc. L. F. SIMMONS, Summerside.

MORE INFORMATION WANTED

Sir.—I am very pleased to have the opportunity of answering Mr. Charles Yeo's letter in Monday's Guardian. I believe in this way we will bring things out which in other cases the Federation might want their members to find out.

Before answering any of his questions I would like to point out that it is my wish to establish a public killing plant for livestock not a packing plant. As Mr. Yeo says in his letter, the principal plant he should understand the difference in them. In the case of a custom killing plant, killing is usually done on a fixed rate of charges for different types of animals; while in the case of a packing plant they kill and cure their own meat and do not custom kill livestock for the public.

In answer to question No. 1 "Define moral support" — this is about the 10th time I have defined it for him. Support of one type or another is not material or pertaining to money; it is asking nothing of them only their moral backing that what I venture to do will be recognized by them as in the best interest of all. Further it is asking them not to speak or act against me, but rather in general to speak on my behalf or on behalf of my problem, since it relates to farming.

In his case and that of the Federation they refused to give any Federal support or they kill and cure their own meat and do not custom kill livestock for the public, etc., to approach Ottawa to see if a subsidy was available for the construction of a plant. Other Provinces claim that this type of money is available for part costs, so why can't the Federation back move. If a fisherman wanted to get a subsidy on the construction of a dragger, would the Fisheries refuse him any moral support?

Question No. 2: "How is the business to be organized and operated?" Mr. Yeo speaks of himself as not knowing because he knows we are organizing as private enterprise but intend to do custom killing of livestock for the public at a fixed rate of charges, and he was informed the Federation could place direction on the plant board and they would have a say in the setting of charges. I wonder if he knows the Summerside rates, and if he does, kindly publish them.

Question No. 3: "What control will the farmers have?" This is fairly well answered in question No. 2, whereby Federation, farmers, canners, shippers, etc., could have representation on the Board. I believe this offer is very fair, as how much control can anyone expect when they have no money

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(And P. E. I.)

PEREGRINATING EDITOR

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The Passing Scene

By Observer SOME THOUGHTS ON THE PLOWING MATCH

For the first time in my life I have attended a Plowing Match and I can only regret that I had not taken in the event long before this. There was much to be seen. The fine cattle and horses, the rows and rows of modern machinery, the skill of the plowmen, the apparent enthusiasm of farmers and their families.

These things were quite enough to make the afternoon interesting and profitable. But there was something else even more important. I refer to the stimulation of thought which came to me as I walked leisurely over the grounds. For here, it seemed to me, was the very essence of Island life, deep, imponderable something which distinguishes this community from all other places I have known.

From the Premier to the youngest farm hand there was plainly evident a clean healthy pride in what the Island can mean to one's life and culture, a strength that only a pastoral way of life can bestow and sustain. It must be the hope of everyone who loves this bit of land that that way will never be allowed to wither under the pressure of big industrial activity. Heavy industry would play a prominent and useful part, too—in our complex modern world, but this is not the setting for it.

No doubt when "Plowing Matches" were first thought up the designation was appropriate. Now, however, when many other interesting things besides plowing are featured, it seems to be a bit out of place. My own suggestion for a proper description would be "Farmers' Day" and, considering the agricultural emphasis in our economy, it might well be proclaimed a provincial statutory holiday. Since farmers undoubtedly make up the bulk of our population it is only right and proper that one day in the year should be set aside in their honour. It would mean one big event:

told that I cannot sell my small mountain sows for less than \$1.80 per bushel when the dealers tell me all the market will warrant is \$2.00 per cwt.

There is a feeling among some that a lot of animosity exists between the potato growers of this Province and the potato dealers but I do not agree. It is general, it would appear, though that some friction does exist between the potato dealers and the potato marketing board under its present set up and possibly this friction is quite justified.

I agree that a conversation which included few farmers and a potato dealer and frankly I was amazed with some of the statements, some of which I believe are facts. One grower favored the floor price and felt it was the only right and proper way to the upward trend. He looks at the \$1.10 floor of September, 1951 and the \$2.00 per bushel price reached in less than two months following it. He feels that on the same basis this year the present \$1.95 floor should reach \$2.50 per bushel by November 10, 1952.

I only regretted that the board did not set the price on August 26th so that we would have a \$4.00 per bushel market before frost danger. Surely no one would agree on such logic. After hearing the discussion I agree that the public should have knowledge of how the public funds entrusted to the board have been spent.

I am convinced that a properly balanced potato board composed of a few dealers, a number of which were successful farmers, along with a good representation of interested growers, could work along harmoniously and in the best interests of this vitally important industry.

I have been closely associated with some of the dealers and have found them very reliable and if it was not for the assistance I received through them in the past, I would not have any potatoes to sell this year nor would many others. I have confidence in these men and when my crop is ready for market and in danger of frost exists I certainly will not waste my time or money phoning any board regarding price or assistance. I will sell my potatoes to best advantage, as in the past.

No, let us keep striving for that Utopia, but we are now at the fork in the road, and we must decide sending us even a few miles to the left will definitely result in disaster.

I am, Sir, etc. PRINCE COUNTY FARMER

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