

THE GUARDIAN

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CIRCULATION "Covers Prince Edward Island like the dew" "The strongest memory is weaker than the weakest ink".

CHARLOTTETOWN, TUESDAY, MAY 19, 1953

What Is A Farmer?

It is characteristic of the Courts that they are required to consider and decide questions which others may shrug aside as interesting but on which "much may be said on both sides." The Court considers what can be said but must then give a decision based on principle.

In a recent case before the Magistrate at Alberton, for instance, the owner of a farm was accused of fishing without a license and, not unnaturally, argued that he was not required to have one, being a farmer. The term farmer once applied to land that was leased or farmed as taxes or children would once be farmed out in exchange for a money payment. Thus a farmer-general was an enterprising person who took over the privilege of collecting taxes in a district or country. The ruler was said to farm out that profitable right. A farmer, consequently, was what we would call a tenant or lessee, who paid a fixed sum to the person who farmed out the right of cultivating the land.

Today, however, farms are freehold as well as leasehold and a farmer in most cases pays nobody for the privilege of using the land. The present decision makes it clear, however, that a landowner who farms out his property and works at another occupation is not a farmer, at least within the meaning of the Game Act. The right to fish trout and salmon without a license is restricted to the actual cultivator of the soil and, of course, rural labourers and commercial fishermen who are specifically mentioned.

Farm Improvement Loans

A total of \$98,259,151 was borrowed by Canadian farmers during 1952 under the Farm Improvement Loans Act, according to information contained in the annual report tabled in the House of Commons last week by Finance Minister Abbott. This represents the greatest amount borrowed during any twelve month period since the inception of the Act. The increase over the corresponding period of 1951 was nearly thirteen million dollars.

Since the coming into force of the Act in 1945, farmers have availed themselves of 331,940 loans. The dollar volume of these loans amounts to \$353,640,000. At the end of 1952, farmers had repaid 65.3 per cent of this accumulated total. Claims paid to the banks for losses amounted to \$12,153, an increase of nearly six thousand dollars over 1951. So far no accurate estimate of a future loss ratio can be predicted, but at the end of 1952, losses represented only .01 per cent of the amount lent during seven years' operation. This is an excellent testimonial to the stability of the agricultural industry, and to the integrity of our farmers generally.

As in preceding years, by far the greatest amount borrowed was in the Prairie Provinces, roughly 74 per cent of the ninety-eight million obtained last year being in this area. However, marked percentage increases were recorded in the Maritimes, and when cognizance is taken of the farming population and the value of the farms, the increase is significant. Ontario and British Columbia showed a slight increase, while Quebec farmers borrowed approximately one million dollars more than in 1951.

It was expected that there would be a decrease in livestock loans, due to the cattle embargo and lower beef prices last year; but farmers are apparently confident of a stable future market. Both the number of loans and the amount borrowed for livestock increased.

It is worth noting that under the Act, farmers may borrow money for a wide variety of purposes, including the purchase of farm implements, livestock, financing of farm buildings, and the clearing and breaking of land. The loans are obtained through the chartered banks at 5 per cent simple interest, and re-payments are arranged where possible to suit the paying capacity of the person obtaining the credit.

Significant Appointment

The recognition accorded to Mr. George Drew, Progressive Conservative leader, in appointing him to the membership of the Queen's Privy Council for Canada, reflects credit on Ottawa as an acknowledgement of the character and ability of a loyal Canadian. Mr. Drew now joins the distinguished company of Privy Counsellors who have

served, and are serving Canada with distinction and sincerity of purpose.

The Ottawa Journal points out that in creating this precedent Prime Minister St. Laurent has done three things: (a) confirmed himself as the possessor of a civilized mind, (b) disengaged himself from partisan propaganda carried on against Mr. Drew, and (c) taught many of his followers and more of so-called publicists and commentators (not to mention news announcers) what the Leader of the Opposition means under our parliamentary system.

Correspondents and commentators write and speak repeatedly of "the Opposition parties" and "the Opposition leaders." Mr. St. Laurent has reminded them that there are no opposition parties and no opposition leaders; that there is just Her Majesty's Loyal Opposition and the Opposition Leader. Other parties not supporting the Government are but "splinter" parties; groups.

The common misunderstanding about the real position of the Leader of the Opposition under our parliamentary system, says The Journal, has been shown recently in news stories telling of the Canadian cabinet ministers and MP's who would attend the Coronation and listing Mr. Drew among a number of ministers and others.

The fact is that the only Canadians going from Ottawa to the Coronation as "official guests," on the invitation of Her Majesty, are:

The Prime Minister and Mrs. St. Laurent,

The Deputy Prime Minister (Mr. Howe) and Mrs. Howe,

The Leader of the Opposition and Mrs. Drew,

The Chief Justice of Canada and Mrs. Rinfret.

That is the way they do things in Britain; they have a clear understanding over there as to just where the Leader of the Opposition fits in their protocol of precedence.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Despite the attraction of Coronation year tourists have not lost interest in the Island as a holiday resort. The 30 per cent increase in inquiries reported by the Travel Bureau forecasts a busy season.

For those to whom the attractions of the countryside proved too great to give up their holiday to beautify their home surroundings there are still a number of days, or at least evenings, left in Charlottetown's Beautification Week.

Even the best car at a low price is no bargain if someone else happens to be the real owner. Maritimers have been warned of stolen cars moving here from Ontario and would be wise to make a point of knowing about anyone from whom they propose to buy a car.

The R.C.N. frigates LaHulloise and Swansea sailed yesterday from Halifax to complete the Canadian Coronation Squadron. Already overseas are H. M. C. S. Quebec, the cruiser in which Rear-Admiral Bidwell flies his flag, the Magnificent, Ontario, and Sioux. Canada will indeed be proudly represented at the Coronation Review.

President Eisenhower has received a report from the fifteen-member National Manpower Council which he appointed when President of Columbia University. Today, of course, he is far more academically interested in the human resources of the United States in the scientific and professional fields.

Nancy Witcher, Viscountess Astor, wife of Viscount Astor of Cliveden, was born this date 1879. Born in Virginia, she was the first woman to sit as a member of the House of Commons at Westminster, although not first to be elected. She was returned for Plymouth in 1919 and at every general election until 1945. In 1923 she published "My Two Countries".

A car travelling at 20 m.p.h. covers a distance of 29 1/3 feet in one second, quite sufficient to result in an accident if the driver's attention is diverted for even half that time because it takes a measurable time to react to an emergency. In driving a car, particularly in traffic, there is no time to pay attention to anything else with safety.

Liberals and Conservatives are running full slates of 37 candidates in the Nova Scotia general election scheduled for May 26, and the CCF 16, with one Independent. When the last House dissolved there were 27 Liberals, 8 Conservatives and two CCF members. The popular vote in the 1949 election showed an increase of more than 50,000 over that of the 1945 contest. Redistribution effective in 1949 increased the House membership from 30 to 37.

Wrong Party



The Poet's Corner

AD CINERARIUM Who in this small urn reposes, Celt or Roman, man or woman, Steel of steel, or rose of roses? Whose the dust set rustling slightly, In its hiding-place abiding, When this urn is lifted lightly? Sure some mourner deemed immortal What thou holdest and enfoldest, Little house without a portal! When the artifice had slowly Formed thee, turned thee, sealed thee, buried thee, freighted with thy freightage holy, Sure he thought there's no forgetting All the sweetness and completeness Of his rising, of her setting, And so bade them grave no token, Generation, age or nation, On thy round side still unbroken;— Let them score no cypress verses, Funeral glooms, prayers, or stories, Mourners' tears, or mourners' curses. Round thy brown rim time has polished— Let thy dumbly cold and comely As some shrine of gods abolished. Ah, 'tis well! It scarcely matters What is sleeping in the keeping Of this house of human tatters, Steel of steel, or rose of roses, Man or woman, Celt or Roman, If but soundly he reposes! —Victor Plarr.

Old Charlottetown

(And P. E. I.)

BOGUS FISHING COMPANY

From a letter appearing in the Colonial Herald, Dec. 17, 1842, signed Robert Mearns, Cardigan River: "It would appear that there has been for many years a strong desire in the neighborhood of Fleet Street, London, to get up a Fishing Company. In April, 1830 being then in London, an advertisement appeared in the Public Ledger, stating that two persons were wanted, to take the management of a ship-building and fishing establishment in Prince Edward Island. Each person would be required to pay in to the hands of the Company five hundred pounds. Application to be made to the North American Ship-building and Fishing Company's office, Shoe-Lane, Fleet Street. "I found out the office by a large brass plate on the door. I saw there a Mr. Lee, who, after a little conversation, desired that I would call again tomorrow, which I did accordingly. Suffice it to say, that I did not find the thing sufficiently respectable to induce me to deposit any money in their hands."

The Age Old Story

Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness? . . . For when ye were free from righteousness, what fruit had ye then in those things whereof ye are now ashamed? For the end of those things is death. But now being made free from sin, and become servants to God, ye have your fruit unto holiness, and the end everlasting life. The crown actually used for British Coronations is St. Edward's crown, a gold treasure weighing nearly seven pounds.

Notes By The Way

Names of newspapers in Canada conform to a general class—such as Journal, Free Press, Post, Sun, Globe, Star, Gleaner, Banner, Sentinel, Herald, Telegram. We have not been unduly original in naming our periodicals. In marked contrast is a newspaper received last week from Bloemfontein, South Africa. The name of the paper is "The Friend."—Fort William Times-Journal.

An article in the Moscow magazine, "Soviet Art," was indicative of the change that has come over Soviet Russia since Stalin's death. The writer came out flatly in favour of love as a theme for movie script writers. "You can't replace the theme of industrial production," said the article. The writer severely criticized films that have the heroine say to the hero: "If you fulfill the norm by 100 per cent, I shall love you." Or: "When you become a Stakhanovite I will become your wife, but if you don't become one, look for another."—New York Herald Tribune.

An important tipoff to the health of the economy is the volume of Spring auto sales—and so far these are doing very well. In fact, new car sales in the Detroit area in March ran an almost incredible 50 per cent above March 1952—more than 18,000 cars sold against about 11,500 a year ago. Sales have been moving at a merry clip elsewhere as well. Even before disclosure of the March figures, it was becoming clear that auto business was booming. "The giveaway" double shifts—Newsweek Magazine.

A new service offered by Western Union undertakes to provide weather forecasts up to six months in advance for monthly fees ranging from \$20 to \$120. Western Union is not selling its own opinions, but those of a California organization which has been in the prediction business for sixteen years. Possible clients include farmers and business men whose profits and losses depend on the weather. It may be that purchasers of Western Union weather can return it if it is unsatisfactory and possibly get their money back.—Philadelphia Bulletin.

Imagine selecting, say ten women in Canada and proclaiming them the best dressed in the country! How do the judges know? Have they seen every woman in Canada? Or do they just single out women of prominence in the various provinces, well-dressed women, and let it go at that? They must; there is no other way. But dress, at best, is a matter of individual taste; and there are plenty of stenographers, shop girls and others who certainly do know how to wear clothes. Arrayed even in some ordinary little cotton

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The Passing Scene

By Observer CONCERNING THIS YEAR'S GRADUATES

Soon the colleges and universities will be putting their living products under the label of "graduates" on the industrial and intellectual markets. Some have already done so. As it is generally used, the word "graduate" is perhaps a bit unfortunate, inasmuch as it seems to give the impression of final completeness. Used out of respect for its etymological origin the word has much significance. The student "steps" from one school, that of preparation, into another, that of experience. The period of preparation has not been without stress and strain, and the field of experience will, it is safe to say, provide its proper quota of these disciplinary, even if sometimes annoying, forces.

It is interesting to speculate on the kind of prospects that may be in the offing for this year's graduates. This, of course, has always been a theme much favoured by speakers at graduation exercises. Even in so-called "normal" times it has been a subject on which anyone with the gift of prophecy—true or false—could dwell at great length. It is even more the case now when "normalcy" is a forgotten word. One does not have to be a prophet to predict that our "out-of-joint" society is likely to continue that way for some time to come.

What with Communism, McCarthysm, and other forms of neo-paganism, it is a picture of confusion, to say the best of it, that greets young men and women as they step into a world of pragmatic business after being for some years in close association with the world of ideas. Now they will begin to demonstrate whether or not their brief encounter with fine arts and the like has helped them to make adjustment with the stern realities of life. But, happily, young men and women have never been unduly awed by confusion and stern realities. As the poet saw it: "In the lexicon of youth there is no such word as 'fail.'" And by the time disillusionments come their way they will soon be called upon to "be the Best Dressed of all Canadian females is to do scant justice to the millions the judges have never seen at all.—Halifax Chronicle-Herald.

If we think we are smart, it is apt to take us down a peg. If we examine a bird's nest, birds do not use the materials available. Depending on the species, they will use mud, twigs, scraps of various materials, and they will construct a compact, safe nest. Often they do it under difficult conditions, high up in the wavering branch of a tree. They have no tools to help them. They do it mainly with their strong little beaks. And it doesn't take them long, either. They are not restricted to an eight-hour day, or by rules which say they can lay only so many bricks—or twigs—a day. If humans were as ingenious as birds, we would soon solve our housing shortage.—Windsor Star.

Life in Alberta's beer parlors, after May 15, is going to be a little more pleasant for those who get in. A new ruling of the Liquor Control Board says that 50 square feet of floor space will have to be allowed for each table and four chairs. At present, there is no control in regard to overcrowding. We are not inclined to think that the demand for beer is going to drop just because the seating capacity of the beer parlors is being reduced, so perhaps we are about to enter an interesting era of queues outside the parlors, each parched citizen docilely awaiting the evacuation of each 12.5 square feet of floor space.—(Calgary Herald).

Hockey's trespass into the season of Summer sports is a reflection of the money consciousness which rules the great Canadian game. All the schedules are calculated on the basis of how much can be had by way of gate receipts. That is why the playoff series that once were home and home games only are now four of seven, which often meant seven, and in some instances five of nine. The promoters are criticized but the people keep on going to the games and as long as they do that there is not likely to be any change. As at Kitchener and Winnipeg last week the players have been able to enjoy their golf in the afternoons and do their hockey wage earning chores in the evening.—Port Arthur News-Chronicle.

Canada's hardware, tools and cutlery industry employed 14,289 persons in 1951.

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