

THE GUARDIAN

Authorized as Second Class Mail Post Office Department, Ottawa. The Island Guardian Publishing Co. CIRCULATION Total City Zone 3,765 Retail Trading Zone 8,457 All Others 827 Total Net Paid 13,049 Editor and Managing Director, J. R. Burnett, Associate Editor, Frank Walker. "The Strongest Memory is Weaker Than the Weakest Ink".

CHARLOTTETOWN, WEDNESDAY, AUG. 29, 1951

Pattern in Foreign Trade

Canada's trade picture as revealed in the Dominion Bureau of Statistics review of foreign trade for 1950, shows two significant factors. First, and most ominous, is the trend towards relying solely upon the United States as a market for Canadian exports. Second is the growing deficit balance on the overall foreign trade picture.

During 1950 sixty-six per cent of all Canada's exports went to the United States. Only 13.8 per cent went to the United Kingdom and the remaining 20.2 per cent was distributed among other countries. Bulk of the exports remained primary products, despite the growing industrialization of Canada. The deficit in Canada's trade is explained by DBS as being due to the fact that while the price of Canadian exports rose on the average only five per cent, the price of imported goods during the same period rose by as much as seven per cent.

There is a significant relationship between the relatively slight rise in the price of Canadian exports and the assertion of DBS that such exports were mainly primary products, including foodstuffs. Wheat, of course, ranks in the very forefront of Canadian exports, and wheat was, in effect, operating under the stringency of price control imposed as a by-product of the Anglo-Canadian Wheat Agreement. The price of wheat, under the terms of that agreement, was virtually fixed.

Placing all our exporting "eggs" in Uncle Sam's market basket is, of course, unwise. It is fair to conclude, however, that this tendency to rely so heavily upon the American market for Canada's exports would not have been so marked had it not been for the fact that bulk-trading arrangements such as the Anglo-Canadian wheat agreement inevitably work to the disadvantage of the Canadian farmer-exporter, and to the detriment of the Canadian people as a whole.

Not Farmed Out Yet

Some concern was voiced at a farm economic conference at Guelph over a decline in the land under cultivation in the last 10 years. In one five-year period, it was reported, some two million acres ceased to be used for agriculture.

Such a trend, comments the Financial Post, does not mean that we have passed the saturation point in farm production. Far from it. Not the best, but generally the poorest agricultural land has been given up. Some of this ground should never have been broken in the first place. At best it was only marginal from an agricultural point of view and the country will benefit from having it returned to bush or erosion-resisting grass. There might even be a gain in net farm production, if the work and materials that used to be expended on this marginal land is transferred to the remaining cultivated acreage.

The Post recalls that one of the biggest wheat crops this country ever harvested came from the substantially reduced acreage of the last war. When forced to cut the size of their wheat fields, farmers simply took the poorer land out and gave greater care to the better.

There are no signs yet that Canadian agriculture has reached anything close to its maximum production. True there are no longer any vast tracts of virgin land waiting the plow but new methods, new machines and new crops, all point to still greater output in the years ahead.

Conservatives vs. Liberals

The old Conservative stand-by, the Montreal Gazette has become critical of the party's present stand on questions of finance and economics. "The country needs somebody in politics with courage enough to stand up and speak plain truth that spending must be got in hand and restrained," it says, "before it runs away, and drags the bedraggled dollar after it. It would be only natural to expect that this essential national function would be performed by the Progressive Conservative Party. In such a time as this, it should be, above all, the party of commonsense. It should go about insistently reminding people that two and two still make four; that there is no way of getting a quart out of a pint bottle; and that there is no way, for that matter, of getting money anywhere, except out of the people's purses and pock-

ets. But, strangely enough, the Progressive Conservative Party is not doing this. It seems even in some danger of suggesting that two and two can actually be made to add up to six. So far from being a political leaven in the land, keeping politics and economics reasonable and sensible, the Progressive Conservatives are running ahead of their opponents, and trying to leave them behind in the spender's race. Instead of preaching caution, they almost seem in danger of tossing that invaluable national commodity to the political winds."

Hanging Out

Walt Disney and his staff, who have conducted extensive research into 12th century English life for the £50,000 production of "Robin Hood" at an English film studio, have discovered an interesting heraldic tradition which is the basis of a present-day slang expression.

In one scene—the Nottingham Square market—there are two shields outside the wooden-shuttered, thatched-roofed old Norman house. They're a sign that nobleman were lodging there, and in their own way served the same purpose as a social column in a newspaper nowadays. The peasants and the visiting townfolk would deduce from the heraldic sign who was in town, why, and what was going on. Hence the present day expression "Where do you hang out?" which used to mean "where does your shield hang out?"

EDITORIAL NOTES

An increase in the cost of milk, cream, and telegrams announced.

The armistice in Korea is evidently as far away as ever. The Communists do not want the cessation of hostilities, they merely want to tire out or exasperate the United Nations.

The suggestion that Britain should hand over the control of the oil capital of Iran to the U. S. A. appears very like a machination of the enemy to disrupt the harmony of Anglo-U.S.A. relations.

The further plans to protect our wood lots from being sold off the Island are timely, and will be appreciated by everyone who has the best interests of the Province at heart. A tree denuded Island would be a menace to all of us.

That was good advice given by Mr. Walter Hyndman at this week's Rotary luncheon, namely, that each car driver should practice slowing down at the approach of intersections and other "own danger spots" on the streets and roads, schools, churches, etc. Experts estimate that such precautions all over Canada would eliminate 100,000 accidents per annum—not to mention a million shocks to the nerves of unfortunate pedestrians.

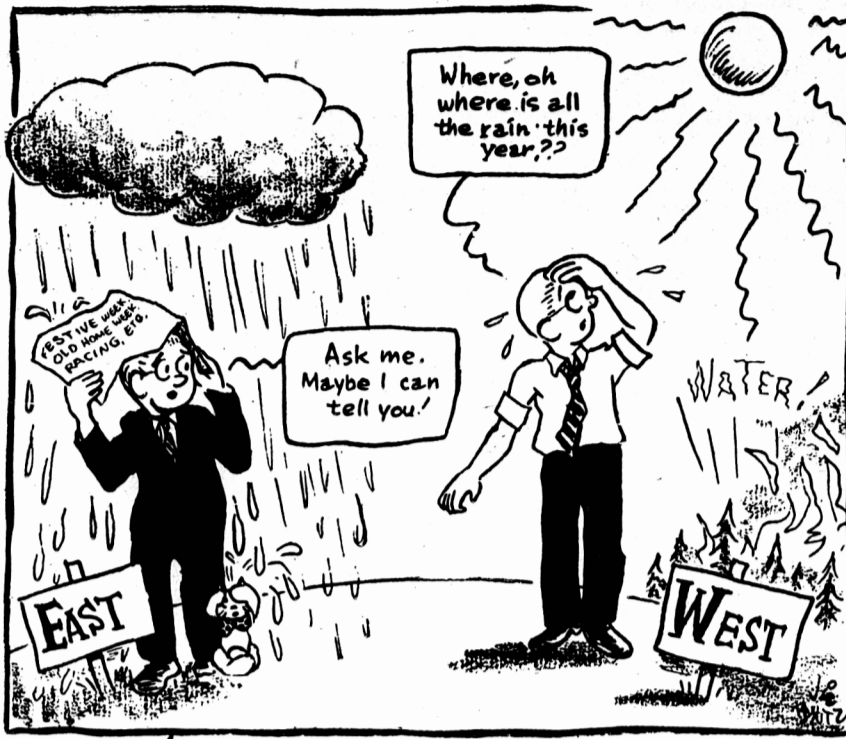
John Locke, pioneer English philosopher, was born this date 1632. He was closely associated with the brilliant statesman, Lord Shaftesbury, and his "Essays Concerning the Human Understanding," like much of his work, was the product of enforced retirement during the periods his chief was out of office.

The Gazette of Montreal draws a prize for bluntly announcing that it is time that the Government of Canada adopted a "static budget"; a system by which, when the Government finds new avenues of expenditure which appear necessary to the Government, it should at the same time reduce other expenditures, so that the total Government budget will only increase about as rapidly as the total productivity of the nation.

Mother's cooking drew her from Leeds to New Zealand. Mrs. Nellie Cliff's four sons left the family hearth in Leeds, Yorkshire city eight months ago, to try their luck in New Zealand. Now she's going to join them. Mrs. Cliff made up her mind to travel to New Zealand after getting a forlorn cable from the boys, who said they sadly missed mother and her "delicious cooking". She packed up and took a supply of her own favorite pots and pans.

With a new chemical coating, glass will conduct electricity, opening up a bright new market for electrically-heated windshields for cars and airplanes, self-heating containers for industrial and consumer use. Another coating has produced a glass which makes it possible to have a photograph indelibly impressed upon the glass. While this did not seem at first to have much practical application, further research led to a glass "marble"—to be used for the new General Assembly building of the United Nations—a "grilled" glass for diffusing light from fluorescent illumination, and many other important technical advances.

Time For A Change-About



Old Charlottetown

(And P. E. I.) LAMENTABLE ACCIDENT

The death of one of the most prominent citizens of early days is thus recorded in the Royal Gazette of August 2, 1851: "It is with the most poignant regret we have to announce the death of our most esteemed townsman and valued friend, Ewert Cameron, Esq., which occurred yesterday under the following circumstances. It appears that about five in the afternoon, he passed the four gun battery at Fanning Bank after asking the gunner's wife where was the best place to bathe. In less than fifteen minutes after, a man came to the fort and gave the alarm that some person was drowned. The gunner, along with the man, immediately repaired to the beach, and a little to the right of the fort saw a naked body floating in the water, about sixty yards from the shore, with the head and shoulders under."

"No time was lost in getting the body on shore, with the assistance of two other men who were in a boat. This boat had just crossed the York River, and it was the people in her who first saw the body, but from the circumstance of its floating, they concluded that it had been a long time in the water, and therefore despatched one of their hands to the fort for assistance, previous to their taking any steps to secure it. It was then discovered to be Mr. Cameron, but they could perceive no signs of life remaining."

"One of them immediately ran to town for assistance, and four medical gentlemen were quickly on the spot. Every means that skill or ingenuity could prompt, in order to restore animation, was resorted to in vain. The operation of bronchotomy, or opening of the wind-pipe, was performed, and the stomach pump introduced, when the lungs were found completely surcharged with water. A coroner's inquest was held on the view of the body, but nothing material was elicited more than we have stated. A verdict of accidental death was returned."

"Mr. Cameron was in his forty-third year, and has left a wife and six children to deplore their irreparable loss. He was a native of Ardnamurchan, in Argyshire, but had resided in this country for the last twenty-six years of his life. During that long period, few men have enjoyed a greater share of public esteem and confidence. From his extensive mercantile transactions and the multiplicity of his engagements, he had become in a manner the personal acquaintance of almost the entire adult population of the Island."

"In the House of Assembly, of which he had filled the chair, he was many years an effective and influential member. He was the first in this country to move for the removal from the statute books of those restrictions which at one time deprived a large portion of our fellow subjects of their civil rights; and in the course of his long political career, he was alike distinguished for the disinterestedness of his views, and his devoted application to the public business. To the poor he was ever a kind and generous benefactor; and as the best commentary on his active and useful life, we can state with confidence, that the poignant regrets of his fellow citizens will follow him to his grave."

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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.

COST OF EDUCATION

Sir.—Some time ago in the Bank at O'Leary I stood in line waiting my turn at the wicket and a word with Mr. Wilson, the very courteous manager. While there I met a friend from a distance. After a formal greeting and the usual comment on the weather, the Number One problem discussed was the shortage of teachers and the high cost of education. His advice was, send our daughters to business college where in one term they can qualify for service in the business world.

His daughter had graduated from P.W.C. and it cost him around sixteen hundred dollars. As he is a man of fair reasoning, I didn't doubt his words. The country girl of today knows if she is going to compete in college, apart from nature's endowments, mental ability, a pleasing personality and a neat profile, she must be well dressed; she must patronize the beauty parlour occasionally, and if she wants to be popular she must be generous with her classmates. Board and travelling expenses are high, plus a two year term, which means that a poor man's daughter, no matter how bright she may be, has a poor chance of getting through P.W.C.

This evening, when the day's work was ended, I sat in the old armchair close by the radio as it played softly. I opened the latest paper and again and again I saw a long list of "Teacher Wanted" ads., accompanied by what a few years ago would be thought very enticing supplements ranging from \$300 to \$450. I also saw in the same paper that there was a surplus of clerical workers and stenographers.

It is obvious that many were of the opinion of my friend, "Our way" many more schools would be closed only for the teachers of yesterday who have settled in our districts and who disrupt their home life to help educate our youth.

Far be it from me to criticize the powers that be, but we seem willing to spend millions to fight Communism abroad while we may be fostering Communist views at home by leaving our school shut.

Another injustice to the poor man's daughter is our system of voting supplements. For a prosperous, thickly settled district can vote a much larger supplement than a poorer district can. Naturally the teacher applies for the school with the larger supplement.

Perhaps if there was a "good will" fund started to assist the poor man's daughter in her search for knowledge, the wealthy might cast in their abundance and others their mite. "Let us hope."

I am, Sir, etc. THOMAS GORRILL, Glenwood, Lot 8.

Nibbling At Niagara

(Manchester Guardian)

In those carefully kept journals in which our great-grandparents dutifully recorded their impressions when travelling abroad a waterfall was always the occasion of a philosophical passage on the mightiness of Nature and the littleness of Man.

The latest bulletin of the National Geographic Society of the United States records concern least the diversion of more of Niagara's water for hydro-electric power stations may make the fall "no longer quite the majestic torrent it used to be."

The tourist, however, has been specially taken care of in the Niagara Diversion Treaty ratified last year between Canada and the United States. This lays down that the minimum volume of water coming over the fall during "tourists' viewing hours" must not be less than 100,000 cubic feet a second — which should be enough to guarantee a good show (and even philosophical thoughts). But outside "tourists' viewing hours" man is unquestionably the boss.

Niagara, however, may have the last word. By erosion of the river bed the falls are slowly moving up river — the National Geographic Society estimates that they have moved six and a half miles upstream in the last "20,000 to 35,000 years." Lake Erie is only another eighteen miles or so away. In the next 60,000 years or so Niagara may lose patience and withdraw into the lake.

The Poet's Corner

FROM THE SCHOLAR-GIPSY Here, where the reaper was at work of late, In his high field's dark corner, where he leaves His coat, his basket, and his earthen cruse, And in the sun all morning binds Then here, at noon, comes back his stores to use: Here will I sit and wait, While to my ear from uplands far away The bleating of the folded flocks is borne, With the distant cries of reapers in the corn— All the live murmur of a summer's day.

—Matthew Arnold.

If you want just a suit, buy it anywhere. But if you want a suit that fits buy it from J.P. MacPherson & Son

THOMAS GORRILL, Glenwood, Lot 8.

COMPLETE INSURANCE SERVICE W.K. Rogers Agencies Limited 181 QUEEN ST. AGENTS THROUGHOUT THE PROVINCE

Notes By The Way

The blind pig and the rum-runner were supposed to disappear when prohibition ended in the United States. Now the Licensed Beverages Industries, Inc., reports that as much bootleg whiskey and possibly more is being sold in the U. S. as during the prohibition era. —Ottawa Journal.

A Fall election in Ontario, forecast by the Toronto Globe and Mail, is being discounted by some on the ground that such a contest would be unseemly while Princess Elizabeth and the Duke of Edinburgh are our guests. Not an overly valid objection. After all, the Princess and Duke, if they are the sort of people we think they are, want to see Canada as it really is, so why shouldn't they see us in the midst of an election, it might even mean, too, their having a lot more fun. —Ottawa Journal.

The Illinois State Fair is adding a class to its hobby show this year that should win smiles and applause. A boy and a girl will get prizes for the most unusually decorated "beanie." Everybody knows the Canadian and American youngsters' fantastically ornamented headgear. Sewn or pressed into its small felt circumference is a mosaic of bottle caps, political campaign buttons and whatever will glitter and survive rain and snow. The possibilities for different flavors pop and for various faces of long-defeated candidates are almost endless. —Chicago Daily News.

The Communists never miss a chance of propaganda even if it is 500,000 years old. When the remains of Peking Man, found in a cave near the Chinese capital, were examined by the government's experts they were pronounced Communist to the last bone. The Chinese, it is explained, had achieved communism even when they still lived in caves. Just how it was possible to discern the politics of the Peking Man by an examination of his scanty remains is not clear to the non-Communist mind. Per-

In their search for the sensational and in their efforts to satisfy what they deem to be the low appetites of their readers, some journalists (saving the term) have held up royally—and in particular the Princess Margaret—to unfair and unmannerly mention. Because the Princess Margaret goes to a play or to a night club, or even tries her skill at some version of a quaint French dance called the can-can, there is no reason to suppose that she is going either to Perdition or to the mid-Victorian bow-wows. In any case she is now 21, and, consistent with her official duties, place and position, entitled to do as she pleases without the attentions of either the Paul Prys or the Mrs. Grundys. —Brantford Expositor.

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The Age-Old Story

Blessed art thou, O Lord, teach me thy statutes. Open thou mine eyes, that I may behold wondrous things out of thy law.