

THE GUARDIAN

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CIRCULATION "Covers Prince Edward Island like the dew"

"The strongest memory is weaker than the weakest ink"

CHARLOTTETOWN THURSDAY, JULY 16, 1953

A Century And A Half

The commemorative service being held at Brudenell Island today to honour the memory of McLaren-Gordon pioneers is a fitting tribute both to those pioneers and to their descendants who have contributed to the development of this Island, other Provinces and American States.

The record is skimpy, as probably were the resources of the pioneers. There is a receipt for £29 8s by Mr. Donald Gordon for the passage of six persons by the "Commerce" which landed at Port Glasgow July 9, 1803 and it is known that the group came from Pictou to Brudenell by the "Arrow" early the same October.

The families of the McLarens and Gordons prospered and scattered but they have never forgotten the original home in the New World and the pioneers' burial ground on Brudenell Island. The centenary was observed and recorded by a granite plaque and now, 150 years after the original landing the descendants are again gathered to honour those whose courage and enterprise contributed to the creation of a new way of life in a New World.

Farm Stability Problem

Perhaps because we are living so close to it in this Province, few of us fully appreciate the important change which is taking place in agriculture throughout Canada. As noted by a writer in The Country Guide, farmers a century ago were not so vitally concerned about stable prices for what they produced.

Today, farms in many areas are larger, the percentage of the population living on them much less, and a much higher percentage of farm income is expended in cash farm and living costs. The difference between cash outgo and cash income is therefore a relatively more important part of net farm income.

This competition is by no means a simple matter. It is not merely a question of which individual, or group of individuals, are the better farmers. It involves a great many things such as the productive ability of soils, the price of land, the distance from a shipping point, the length and cost of the freight haul to market, the willingness and ability to produce in accordance with the demand of the consumers, the seriousness or otherwise of insect pests and diseases, and above all perhaps, climatic conditions.

The consequence of this competition often is instability of prices, especially for the individual producer. As a result, farmers have continually sought for more stable prices. Gradually, governments have been drawn into efforts to help bring this about. As soon as this happens, however, artificial influences are introduced. Supply and demand can no longer operate naturally.

long-term agreements for marketing wheat to other countries—first, to Britain only, and later to 41 other countries, along with three other exporting countries. Now we are about to begin another three-year International Wheat Agreement period, in which Britain has remained out, because she feels that the price of wheat will come down, whereas the other countries have agreed, tentatively at least, that \$2.05 is a fair price.

All of this serves to indicate that the whole world is feeling its way toward stability for agriculture in a period of great uncertainty and of great complexity. Canada is trying one method through the Wheat Board and the Agricultural Prices Support Act, and the United States and Britain are trying methods which they have believed are adapted to their own conditions.

Cottage Safety Precautions

Cottages, normally sources of pleasure and relaxation, are among the major causes of summer accidents, according to officials of the All Canada Insurance Federation. Recent statistics compiled by insurance companies indicate that this year's cottage accident toll will reach record-breaking proportions.

Keep brush around cottage cut down; Arrange for adequate disposal of garbage, a major source of fire; Make sure stove pipes running through partitions are protected by metal thimbles; Brick and stone chimneys, built to the ground and part of the cottage wall, are recommended;

Repairs to electrical and gas equipment should be done by qualified persons. Have leaks repaired immediately; Do not carry oil lamps about more than necessary and make sure they are turned off when not needed;

Check motor boat wiring for leakages. Always have fire extinguishers on boats; Gasoline, naphtha and other inflammables should be kept in plainly marked safety cans;

Do not leave tools, garden implements, etc., lying around.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Three national party leaders have come and gone. It is unlikely that the Social Credit leader, Mr. Solon Low, will come here. Now it is up to the candidates themselves and their local supporters to carry the campaign to a conclusion.

The Government brief on grade crossings indicates that the Province has been doing something about the problem as well as talking. By changing the route from Borden to Charlottetown for the Trans-Canada Highway two level crossings were eliminated.

Dwarf root stocks for fruit trees have a fascination for smallholders who dream of grafting all sorts of fruit tops to such roots and enjoy a miniature orchard. Mr. R. C. Parent on his recent trip to Britain observed that such trees have the advantage for general use of being easier to spray than full sized ones.

Sir Joshua Reynolds, English portrait painter, was born this date 1723. He showed early talent and studied under Hudson and then the Italian masters. He was soon acknowledged the finest portrait painter in England. His encouragement of new talent was constant and generous; he founded the Royal Academy Schools, giving his first lecture there in 1769. His "Discourses" are still of great value to youthful painters.

Approximately five thousand more acres of potatoes will be harvested this fall over last year. Leading agriculturists in this Province have been preaching for years that Prince Edward Island is particularly suited to a system of mixed farming.

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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.

FALSE CULTURAL FRONT

Sir.—One of the latest ominous signs in the international heavens is a lot of claptrap about modern Russian culture. There ain't no such animal, North Americans are fed up with apologists for Russia masquerading in the trappings of "peace", "democracy", "liberty", and "culture".

The little we know about Russia is reminiscent of anything but culture. We know definitely that Russia is a slave state, that within its borders there is an earthly Sheol wherein 14,000,000 human beings are dying a slow and barbarous death at forced labor.

When our National Government has to spend billions annually to protect us from possible Soviet attack, it is unlikely that it will pay a man to travel up and down the country telling Canadian audiences that the regime of the perambulants is fostering a rare brand of culture.

I am, Sir, etc., CANUCK

Who Gets The Fruits?

(Windsor Star)

This is the time of year when it is a race against the birds to get the cherries. As soon as the fruit begins to turn ripe, the robins and their pals are in the trees. They have voracious appetites.

Even when the cherries are green, the birds can be seen giving the trees the once over. They are charting out the heavier crops, making sure they will not waste their time on little fruit when there are bigger and better ones close by.

The birds have an advantage because they do not always wait until the cherries are ripe. They get in there and eat while the fruit is still a pinkish yellow instead of a bright red. When the human beings like to pick at just the correct moment for sweetness and juiciness, the robins are in a few days ahead and get their fill from the best of the tree.

That is an unfair advantage worked by the birds, but it does not preserve the cherries.

Of course, there are all sorts of devices to scare the birds away. But even the best of these don't always work completely. And, it is not practical to go out and stare under the tree to frighten off the robins and others.

It's a battle of centuries. This year is just another page. There will be more pages as each year with its cherries rolls by.

The New Freedom

(Vancouver Sun)

Ontario Court of Appeal has handed down a decision in an otherwise obscure criminal case which could have a profound effect on the status of women in Canada—women, that is, who are wives.

The Court has said that a woman can be independent in her judgment of her husband. Of course, she couldn't hold property, their money was their husband's to dispose of. They couldn't give evidence against their husbands in court for this same reason.

And they couldn't conspire with their husbands. In fact they were like the King—they could do no wrong, almost.

But it's this very matter of conspiracy in which the Ontario Justices have found a hole. A man was convicted of conspiring with his wife to commit a forgery. It was argued on appeal that there couldn't have been a conspiracy because the Common Law from the time of Edward III said they're one person in the Law's eyes.

That, retorted the Justices, is a legal fiction which has place in our present society. The conviction stands.

Women have won many privileges in recent years. They haven't complete equality in all things—some men will still insist on giving them their seats in buses and trams. But here the Ontario Justices offer them a new freedom—to be equal partners in crime with their spouses. What becomes of the ancient rule that a wife can't testify against her husband? That apparently still stands because it's now enshrined in statute.

Old Charlottetown

(And F. E. L.)

A SHE-BEAR'S DEN "On Friday last, William and Cousin MacKinnon, of Lot 65, while hauling timber, three-quarters of a mile from the shore, and about half a mile from the house of Mr. Allan MacDougall, Canoe Cove, Back Settlement, discovered a bear's den within a few feet from where they were at work. Before they disturbed the inmates they took the precaution of throwing an obstruction at the mouth of the den, and they prepared themselves for the slaughter, by opening an aperture on the back where the animal showed her head, to which they applied the pole of the ax.

The Neighbors

By George Clark



"I started in keeping my desk nice and clear, but the boss figured I hadn't enough to do."

The Great Purge Begins

(Montreal Gazette)

There are many dangerous jobs in this world. But perhaps none is so dangerous as to be the palbearers at a dictator's funeral. For the palbearers eye one another very narrowly. And however much they had not committed, and had used illegal methods to extort a confession, Beria himself was put under a public cloud, even while seeming to retain power and authority.

Now Malenkov has carried his plan to its next stage. Beria is openly declared to be a public enemy, worthy to receive the treatment that is reserved for public enemies under the Soviet regime.

This leaves only Molotov among the great rivals. But Molotov has been for some time receding into the background. It seems improbable that he could challenge Malenkov's power. On the contrary, he may either become the tool of Malenkov, or be the next public enemy to be denounced.

It is all a horrible spectacle. But it is the natural outcome of a system that provides no machinery for a change of government. Any public choice of decision is just what is most jealously denied. There is nothing for the candidates for the supreme post to do except to plot the elimination of their rivals.

The purging of Beria may only be the signal for a wider purge to come. Malenkov is now almost compelled to go on to eliminate Beria's supporters. But liquidation on a wide scale raises dangers. There is always the possibility that those in peril may combine. Conspiracy may provoke counter-conspiracy. Factions may spring into being.

All this makes more credible the amazing uprising within the satellites of Eastern Europe. The word must have spread that there was rage in the Communist heaven, and that no one would firmly deny to power, and that the head of the Secret Police was himself a doomed man.

But the great question that now emerges is whether this signal for the Great Purge will open up a new era of unrest and weakness, or whether it marks the ruthless beginning of a new and powerful dictatorship. In any case, it reveals once more the unathomable horror and backwardness of a political system that still incorporates murder as something necessary to its effective workings.

The Age Old Story

The thoughts of the righteous are right; but the counsels of the wicked are deceit. . . . In the way of righteousness is life; and in the pathway thereof there is no death.

—Royal Gazette, April 12, 1844.

and with a second blow brought her to the ground. After they had secured the old one, and in going in to remove her, they found two young ones, which they brought away alive. The den was under the butt of a tree, and the ground was covered with leaves which had been drawn in to make their bed.

Advertisement for G. H. Taylor Jewellers. Features a scale of justice and a diamond ring. Text: "When all the factors are weighed!" "THE value of a diamond cannot be weighed by cost alone... for pride knows no price. Choose where you are sure of quality." "3-DIAMOND RING 135.00" "G. H. TAYLOR JEWELLERS FOR FOUR GENERATIONS"

Notes By The Way

In England one of the grounds on which a man sought a divorce was that his wife was unkind to the family dog. He won a decree—and presumably custody of the canine.—Ottawa Journal.

Scientists at the University of Wisconsin are testing a theory that salmon find their way back from the sea to home streams by sense of smell. The idea is that the fish may be conditioned to return to certain easily accessible streams through the use of artificial odors.—Newsweek.

Those who talk about all being made safe by regulatory bodies, by codes of conduct, by the innate good taste of the British people show—when they are sincere—an alarming ignorance of the true nature of the decision which has to be made. Television is likely to be one of the most powerful social influences of the next 50 years. It should be as unthinkable to hand it over to sponsoring as it would be to give advertisers a decisive say in school curricula. This again is not far-fetched. Television will affect the morals, the values, and the outlook of many of the children of today and tomorrow as much as will their formal education.—From The London Times.

A woman in Miami is asking for divorce on the grounds, among others, that her husband eyes his hair green. We are inclined to deprecate this. While we realize that a head of emerald hair may be somewhat trying to have around the house (particularly if it clashes with the apple green of the living room drapes), we can't help feeling that the wife should have put the greater good of humanity ahead of her personal tastes. The world could use a few more who are willing to give their hair green or to go off on some similar tangent from the all-too-perfect circle.

Thirty or even 25 years ago, small, single-engine aircraft were the chariots of the bush pilots—those modern pioneers who did so much to turn Canadian eyes to the north. Who then thought that four-engine airliners would, within a generation, be carrying the mail and freight, the miners and trappers, into the land of lakes, rivers and rock? The time has come for it now, on the run between Edmonton and Yellowknife, where good, large landing fields are available now, and Canadian Pacific Airlines indicates that the big "mainliners" will be introduced on other routes, too, as soon as suitable airports are available. It's a mark of progress and a sign of the times. The frontier in the north is receding with every passing year, not all along the line at once, but wherever airports can be built. Edmonton is no longer a bush pilot's base in the old sense; it's "airline" flying, for the most part, that they do out of the bush today. Yet bush pilots are still pushing back the frontier and showing the way to the future.—Edmonton Journal.

The Poet's Corner

WALL OF BOOKS Around us reach the volumes. From where the child is kneeling. Up, up to the ceiling. The red-bound and the golden. The spread of lore revealing. That knowledge can be taken. As trees' fruit gently shaken.

Around us reach the seasons. The rhyme of springtime singing. June, July, now winging. Tall flushed and Indian summer. And the white vast winter bringing. Our high pure thoughts together. In the readers' heart-lit weather. —Joseph Joel Keith.

PROFESSIONAL CARDS

Grid of professional advertisements including: Matheson, Peake & Nicholson (Barristers, Solicitors, etc.); Chas. R. McQuaid (Barrister, Solicitor, etc.); Gaudet & Haszard (Barristers and Solicitors); Dr. K. A. MacEachern (Dentist); MacPhee & Trainor (Barristers, etc.); J. S. Taylor (Optometrist); Frederic A. Large, Q.C. (Barrister, Solicitor, etc.); M. Alban Farmer, Q.C. (Barrister and Solicitor); Gordon E. MacMillan, B.A., LL.B. (Barrister, Solicitor, etc.); J. A. Carruthers, R.O. (Optometrist); Allison M. Gillis, LL.B. (Barrister, Solicitor, etc.); Byron J. Grant, O.D. (Optometrist); H. R. Doane & Company (Chartered Accountants); McDonald, Currie & Co. (Chartered Accountants).