

THE GUARDIAN

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"The Strongest Memory is Weaker Than the Weakest Ink"

CHARLOTTETOWN, SATURDAY, DEC. 16, 1950

Home For Christmas

Christmas is peculiarly a family festival. There is something especially painful about being separated from one's home and family at this season, whether by being on Active Service or otherwise unable to rejoin the familiar circle.

The C.N.R. puts on additional trains beginning Monday, not to accommodate tourists and holidaymakers but to bring islanders home for a brief reunion. Schools and Colleges close and it is an unfortunate youngster indeed who cannot take advantage of the opportunity to be again with his own.

In a very real sense the whole Commonwealth becomes aware that it is a family and gathers to hear a Christmas message from the King which owes its power to that feeling of "belonging", which no differences of colour or creed have been able to destroy. It is, as members need not be reminded, a family in which no part seeks to dominate another, but rather all seek to work together to better the world in which they live.

It's All So Confusing!

The Ottawa Journal, in an advance story on a public lecture being held in the Capital, reports that the speaker, a college professor of economics, "will consider not only economic ideas and facts but also various non-economic causes of current world tension." "In the light of these factors," the press report goes on, "the lecturer will make a special study of the United States, the USSR and China. . . . Additionally, he will examine the question: 'Are economic ideologies overrated as contributing causes of war?'"

This sounds like a pretty tall order for one evening, let alone one lecturer. Indeed, the Journal's advance story is enough to make one decide to go bowling instead.

Maybe the reporter just got confused. If he did, it must have been the lecturer that confused him. It's a pretty safe bet that the audience was confused too, when the lecture finally came off. Maybe this episode explains some of the economic confusion that seems to exist nowadays in official circles in Ottawa.

Acadian Progress & Ambition

The Acadians, with a high birth rate and large families, expect to have a majority of population in New Brunswick by 1975—their first objective in a peaceful campaign to recapture the Maritime Provinces.

"They know what they want," writes Ian Sclanders in the current issue of Maclean's: "to dominate New Brunswick first, then Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island."

"Statistics indicate their optimism is justified. In 1871 at the first federal census, 15.7% of New Brunswick's population was Acadian. Now they make up about 38% (198,000 persons). The proportion of Acadians has gone up an average of 2.9% a decade since 1871. On this basis it would take 50 years to give them a majority, but they point out that in 1941 the Acadian birth rate in New Brunswick was 35.8 per 1,000 and for all others it was 20.3. This could mean that Acadians would constitute more than 50% of the population in 25-30 years."

The resurgence of these descendants of the earliest French settlers (1604)—exiled by the British in 1755 for refusing to fight against French Quebec and outcasts for more than a century—began 75 years ago, writes Sclanders.

"Now they're marching out of the forests and into the cities and towns, out of illiteracy and into business, politics and the professions." Moncton is 40% Acadian and Saint John, which didn't have a dozen Acadians in 1930, now has 6,000.

Acadians have been advancing, too, he says, on the cultural, social and economic sides. New Brunswick has four Acadian colleges for men and two for women; the cost of education is low and a unique Acadian-operated insurance society awards 37 scholarships to worthy students.

Half the Roman Catholic priests in New Brunswick are Acadian; so are 20% of the doctors and dentists and 17% of the lawyers. They hold 13 of 52 seats in the Legislature and three of the Province's 10 seats in the House of Commons.

Mr. Sclanders quotes a leading Acadian: "Our movement is not militant. There's no

sinister plot. We'll simply attain numerical superiority with our high birth rate and see to it that our children have the best possible educational advantages. We'll then have recaptured Acadia. We'll continue to be loyal Canadians."

EDITORIAL NOTES

Tomorrow, 3rd Sunday in Advent.

Soon there will be electrification for all purposes between here and St. Eleanor's. Progress indeed.

The groundings of vessels recently at Victoria and Montague indicates that there is much yet to be done to make and keep our ports safe for navigation.

Perhaps it is crass commercialism, but the wide publicity given to the chair-carrying operation of the Royal Canadian Navy could be turned to account by marketing replicas of the now famous little rocker.

The increase in automobile insurance rates here is a sharp reminder that leniency with individual reckless drivers is at the expense of all who must use the highways.

A complaint has been made that there is now too much Christmas giving. There can never be too much charity even though there may be duplication. The blessing, be it remembered, is on the giving.

Enthusiasm for a cause all too readily leads to intolerance. Hockey fans would do well to remember that even those who seem most to disagree with them are honestly doing their best, as they see it, for sport on the Island.

Unions selected the Summer tourist season to embarrass trade and travel, and now in the States they have selected the Christmas season in which to embarrass people sending and receiving Christmas parcels.

Both civil servants and armed forces are rejoicing over the increase of pay promised them by the Federal Government, which recently proclaimed it had a super abundance of revenue. Happy servants of State, and happier tax-payers if the Government's optimism is warranted.

These pay increases for the services, civil military and police, bring their salaries in line with those for private employment. Disregarding marital status and dependents is quite proper where those concerned are to be treated as professionals. In the case of large numbers of men and women being diverted temporarily into active service dependents' allowances are the only answer.

Like the poor, the veterans we have always with us, and there is no more deserving body of men. And the veterans have little ones for whose benefit Messrs. Moore & McLeod are providing a Christmas tree. They are advertising the fact in the current issue, and the attention of readers of good will are directed to it in the hope they will govern themselves accordingly.

Ludwig Beethoven, German composer, born this date 1770. He was one of the greatest composers of all time. Though deaf for 48 years before his death (he could only be communicated with in writing) he produced marvelous melodies which entranced the musical world. Though a student of both Haydn and Mozart, he created a school of his own, his later works, marked entirely new departures, characterized by amazing individuality of style, classical beauty and perfection of form.

Eleven years ago, on December 17, 1939, Britain joyously received an early and heartening Christmas present in the shape of some 7,500 Canadian troops—the vanguard of more than 335,000 she was to welcome before the Second World War was over and won. The first contingent of the 1st Canadian Division arrived that morning in the Clyde River, unannounced and heavily escorted, in one of the most impressive convoys to make the Atlantic crossing during the war. In the convoy were the liners Aquitania, Empress of Britain, Empress of Australia, Duchess of Bedford and Monarch of Bermuda, escorted by some of the most famous vessels of the Royal Navy—the battle-cruiser Repulse, the battleship Resolution and the aircraft carrier Furious. Several other ships of war, including four Canadian destroyers, also were in the convoy. The Canadians had arrived in Britain. Now, eleven years later, Canadian troops are again at sea on their way to a war zone. The Second Battalion Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry sailed from an undisclosed west coast port a week ago prepared to fight alongside United Nations troops against Communism "anywhere."

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.

"SHAKO" SALE JUDGMENT

Sir.—In your editorial column of December 14th, I see you make the following observation: "We are reminded that under a judgment of Magistrate Hinton, Summerside, the unrestricted sale of 'shako' is not illegal here. To make it so the present law must be amended which cannot be done before the next meeting of the legislature." In order to keep the record straight, I would like to correct your impression that the judgment to which you refer made the sale of shaving lotion legal.

Under the P. E. I. Temperance Commission regulations, the sale of lotions, was and still is, illegal except under certain restrictions which call for sale by licenses. That is the law.

While the validity of the regulations were questioned by defence counsel in the Stedman case, and they met with some criticism by the Court, the regulations were not held invalid, as has evidently been assumed by you.

That case was dismissed on a special point of fact, namely that there was no evidence before the Court as to whether the content of the bottles marked as lotions and produced in Court, was consumable as a beverage. The authorities hold that evidence as to this is necessary.

The Crown produces a witness who has sampled the stuff by taste and can say it is drinkable, this requirement can be taken care of in the future, and it should be clearly understood that persons selling lotions contrary to the regulations are subject to prosecution before the Courts, and their licenses are subject to cancellation by the Temperance Commission.

I am, Sir, etc. R. S. HINTON Summerside.

OTHER GODS

Sir.—Temperance people begin at the wrong end with some method of handling the traffic; Government Control, Nationalization, or Prohibition, and so on. It has to be recognized that the liquor problem is a moral one, moral-social and moral-economic but, fundamentally moral, and our major effort must be spent in raising the moral level of our people by persuasive education, carried on through church organizations and especially primary schools. Then after years of teaching, and a wholesome public opinion has been formed, some law. The Stain was a nation changed at one stroke, seems so easy compared to the Jesus way, "first the blade then the ear."

Excessive drinking and its consequent crime are bad advertisements for the traffic. Its main support is the moderate drinker, and until his moral principles are raised high enough for him to care what happens to his weaker brother and his family no method will solve this problem. The moderate must be a superior fellow who says, to himself and to others: "No man and nothing can interfere with my liberty to drink if I wish." Liberty is not the proper word here, but the crude and cruel form of selfishness of the first man who said, "Am I my brother's keeper?" The church in one way and another has tried to do a great deal for the drunkard but practically nothing has been done for the moderate drinker who is, after all, responsible for the traffic by drinking and its accompanying evils have increased to startling proportions these last years, because morality has declined. This decline is illustrated in the gambling craze, Sabbath desecration, increasing divorce, and in disrespect for law. We have been worshipping the god of this world as Mammon, in particular, and he has let us down, morally, as he always does. Now the God of Jesus is angry with His people and because of our sin He has doomed us to cast our billions into the flames of war. "These are the days of vengeance." We can't escape.

The Marshall Plan was adopted to raise the living standards of poorer nations and thus stem the tide of Communism. What move could have been better? But now that plan is dead because mind and means of the United States and all Western Europe is obsessed with preparation against another world war. In the concentration of wealth and privilege among a few and the wretched poor of the many, Communism finds its argument and its strength. The god of this world is a dragon with mouth and maw that will never be satisfied. No sin of man is so common and so disastrous as the worship of other gods. Some day we will return. Some day we will learn that the ancient command, "Thou shalt have no other gods before Me", still stands. God who cares is trying to teach us this.

I am, Sir, etc. W. I. GREEN Stanley Bridge.

HEAVY TRAFFIC

There are nearly 1,000,000 commercial vehicles on British highways in addition to passenger cars.

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Testing And Trying Solution THE AUTHORITIES HAVE BEEN CONCERNED OVER THE MANY TRAGIC ACCIDENTS RESULTING FROM DRUNKEN DRIVING BUT A MEANS OF TESTING APPREHENDED DRIVERS SATISFACTORY TO ALL IS STILL BEING SOUGHT... "DAILY GUARDIAN READER" SENDS Empty Full SOLUTION: →

Old Charlottetown (And P. E. I.) CROWN LANDS According to a return furnished by the Registrar and Keeper of Plans, reported on by a committee of the Legislature on April 8, 1950, there still remained undisposed of the following Crown lands in Prince Edward Island: 2340 acres on Lot 55; 4743 acres on Lot 15; 130 Town Lots in Georgetown; 92 pasture lots in Georgetown; 458 town lots in Princetown; 37 pasture lots in Princetown Royalty.

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With respect to the lands on Lot 55, the committee recommended that they be disposed of by the Government, either at public or private sale, and that the maximum price be not higher than \$30 per hundred acres.

The committee gave consideration to a petition of Roderick Campbell of Georgetown Royalty, who in 1942 bought the possession of several pasture lots in the Royalty from one James Macaulay, held under lease or agreement from Mrs. Fanning, and one of which was Lot No. 37, which proved to be in the Crown. "Mr. Campbell being led, by Miss Fanning, to believe, for some time, they had a grant of the Lot, he offered to take a lease of it, provided the grant was produced; but such not having been done up to 1952, and in order to relieve himself from Mrs. Fanning's claim for future rent of the Lot, he attended the Government sale to purchase the said Lot, when he was opposed by an authorized person, on the part of Mrs. Fanning, to bid against him, the consequence of which was that he had to buy in the Lot for the sum of \$29, being considerably beyond a fair upset price." The committee recommended, under the circumstances, that the Government should not call on said Campbell to pay beyond the usual up-lift price of such Lots in a wilderness state.

The committee recommended that the Government "take such steps as may be deemed necessary for exercising all the rights recently held by the Crown over the fishery reserves of the Colony." They stipulated that the tenants and small freeholders already in occupation of the reserves, who had leased or purchased from the proprietors or their agents under the belief that the latter had as good a right to dispose of the reserves as the adjoining lands, should remain "in quiet possession" on the undertaking to pay sixpence, exclusive of any other lawful rates or taxes, for such portions of their farms as had been reserved in

STEPS TOO CLOSE PETERBOROUGH, Ont. — (CP) — When his long overcoat became entangled in the drive shaft of a corn-picking machine, John Peter, 28, was whirled around several times before the machine stopped. He was treated for a broken arm, cuts and bruises.

Gifts for Men ROBES One of the most useful and pleasing gifts he will get — choose one of these outstanding robes in all wool flannel in plain or plaid — and jacquered or satin striped silks, exclusively boxed. PRICES \$8.95 UP DRESS SHIRTS SPORT SHIRTS PAJAMAS TIES All expertly designed by Brill — Bluestone and other nationally famous makes — a must on every Christmas list and priced within your budget.

'Irish' Moss Turns Canadian John Mockett in Canadian Business (John Mockett in Canadian Business) Before World War II changed their attitude, Irish moss was only a pesky seaweed to a lot of people in the Maritimes. Quizzical grins lightened the weather-beaten faces of Nova Scotia fishermen whenever a stranger stopped by and offered to buy all the Irish moss they could gather. They couldn't see the sense of his paying a cent a pound for the cursed, paralytic weed that fouled their nets and slowed up their oars. Official statistics show that some of these fishermen later changed their minds. Close to 15 million pounds of Irish moss have been shipped out of the Maritimes since 1940. Today the gathering and curing of Irish moss means 4260 thousand a year to down-east fishermen. Round figures keep this business in the minor industry class, but it is the kind of small industry that swells fishing incomes by providing work in the slack seasons. Inately conservative, the fishermen were slow to take up this fill-in occupation and even now it's sometimes difficult for buyers to get enough moss. A few men around Wedgeport and through the Pictou in southern Nova Scotia were the pioneers, back in 1940. The total output that first year was 10 thousand pounds.

The following year Prince Edward Island recognized the demand for Irish moss and produced 208 thousand pounds, compared with 53 thousand marketed by Nova Scotia. The Island continued to lead the mounting production figures until 1949, when its 1,126 thousand pounds were topped by Nova Scotia's output of 1,174 thousand pounds. New Brunswick marketed 26 thousand pounds in 1942 and the same amount in 1944, then dropped out of production.

Today the curing and shipping of Irish moss has grown important enough to make people in and outside the moss business ask questions. Can the industry be maintained? Can it be expanded? What does the future hold for this prosperous baby?

Current threat is the effort being made by European shippers to regain the Irish moss market in the United States which they lost when the war blocked the shipping lanes in 1939. Lower wages and government subsidies in some cases are enabling overseas shippers to offer dried moss at prices below those of the Maritimers. But this threat is already being countered.

Who buys Irish moss and what do they use it for? Processing extracts from the dried weed a substance called carrageen or gelose. And gelose helps to preserve the consistency of some substances and, added in small quantities, works a drastic change in others.

A pound of gelose will "stabilize" a ton of chocolate milk and keep the chocolate particles from settling to the bottom of the mixture. Two per cent or even less can produce jellies or thickened liquids and it is extensively used in meat and poultry canning to keep the contents from becoming mushy. A small quantity added to oil breaks it up into tiny drops that will mix easily with water—this makes it useful for emulsions and in preparing water-soluble paints. Ice cream, salad dressing and cream cheese acquire smooth, even texture when gelose is used. With all these potential buyers, and with new uses for carrageen being found every year, the market should hold up indefinitely.

And it is not only the Bluenose and Island dealers and fisherfolk who are taking an interest in retaining part of this market for Maritimers. The National Research Council, with the active encouragement of the National Chemurgic Committee of the Canadian Chamber of Commerce, has set up an Association Committee on Seaweed Research. Part of its job has been investigating carrageen itself and discovering just why it stabilizes milk mixtures as one step in setting up standards of quality. Actually, says the committee,

probably the key to the whole problem lies in that word "quality." The outlook for the Irish moss industry seems good if collectors and shippers concentrate on more efficient production and on improving the quality of the dried moss. Because so much of this moss goes to the food processors, cleanliness is all-important.

The method of collection hasn't changed much since George Beveridge of Yarmouth sailed his schooner over to Scituate, Mass., three generations ago and brought back the long-toothed rakes used by American moss fishermen. Beveridge's attempt to interest Yarmouth County shore dwellers in gathering moss didn't meet with any enthusiasm then but it bore fruit years later.

Once the moss has been raked in, preferably from rocks near low tide level and down to a depth of 15 feet, it must be dried and sometimes bleached. Bleaching consists of moistening the moss with salt water, spreading it out in the sun, and letting the rays bleach it to a light straw color. Fog and rain of any fresh water) dissolve the valuable gelose so in bad weather the moss must be protected. Any bleaching comes a thorough drying.

It is often in the curing process that trouble begins and that careless handling occurs. Sometimes the moss is spread out on ground where it gets adulterated with fill of various kinds. Sometimes partially rotted moss, with lower gelose content, slips into shipments. This is why the business of curing the moss is moving into the hands of large-scale buyers, better able to keep up the quality.

Buyers take the wet moss over from the fishermen as soon as it is landed. They assist the gatherers by providing power boats to tow their dories to the moss grounds in groups. Loaded dories are towed back to the wharf and moss is trucked to curing plants.

A typical curing plant is the one operated by the Irish Moss Division of Kraft Foods Limited, at Sealburne. Several truckloads can be dried at one time on open-air cement platforms. A sprinkling system stands ready to spray the moss with salt water if a sudden shower comes up.

The dry moss is handled in a building adjoining the square. Seaweed, rock grass, shells, coral weed are sorted from the moss before it is fed into a power hammer and the bales are wrapped in tarpaulin for shipping. The output of this plant was shipped unbleached last year.

There is another possible approach to this problem of keeping the Irish moss industry healthy, and that is building a plant in Canada to extract the carrageen from the raw moss. The National Chemurgic Committee of the Chamber went into this question too; came up with the conclusion that the domestic demand for the moss support a profitable extraction industry here, and that tariff barriers would make exporting the carrageen difficult. However, at least one Nova Scotia firm is making and marketing packaged products with an Irish moss base.

This pessimism about a domestic industry doesn't mean that the Seaweed Committee is giving up the problem. In fact, it's going right ahead evolving standards of quality. Next it plans to study the yield and quality of moss collected at various places and during different seasons. This should make possible the improvement of quality by selection.

Taking advantage of this research allied with practical application, the Maritimer should continue to find in this once-despised seaweed a small but welcome contribution to their income.

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