

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, THURSDAY, FEB. 28, 1952

Mortgaging Canada's Future

It was once the proud boast of Canada's wartime Finance Minister J. L. Isley that the cost of the war was financed on a pay-as-you-go basis without the necessity of mortgaging this country's future through the floating of loans abroad.

Before assuming Mr. Abbott's air of pleased complacency about the "buoyant state of the country's finances", however, it is desirable to take a good, hard look at figures just released by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics.

The danger of level crossings is, of course, increased in winter because of reduced visibility caused by high banks of snow. The need for caution is increased in proportion.

Man is vile but some crimes charged against him may not be substantiated. It was long presumed that the passenger pigeon was exterminated by guns and traps, but today there is more than a suspicion that the real villain was a virus.

Too Late For Gallantry

A notable feature of pioneer life is that, despite its hardships and crudity, it brings out a remarkable degree of gallantry in the male sex towards women.

Today the disparity between the numbers of men and women is disappearing and it would seem that soon the men will be in the majority for a change.

Anaesthetizing Bees

According to the Ottawa Journal, the Central Experimental Farm has tried anaesthetizing bees with carbon dioxide, and the results have been startling.

But nature always takes its toll. In longevity tests the life span of the very busy bee, jet-propelled by carbon dioxide energy, was found to be shortened by about seven days compared with the ordinarily busy bee.

In all this, opines the Journal, there should be a lesson. If there are ulcers in the bee world we may be sure the over-busy bee has them.

ly is never busy? What happens to him if given carbon dioxide? The scientists apparently haven't gotten around to answering this question, which to the philosopher would appear to hold out some interesting possibilities.

EDITORIAL NOTES

No better choice than Mr. Arthur Belcher could be made to explain to all and sundry the why and wherefore of the proposed changes in city assessments.

A step in the right direction will have been taken by the City Council in imposing a poll tax on business women to bring them into active public life.

It may be a small world all right; but it took two months exactly for the police to find an amnesia affected army nurse who disappeared from Kingston, Ont., on Christmas eve, landing in New York instead of Sherbrooke, Que.

The embargo on the export of cattle, etc., in addition to affecting the immediate consumer, will also prove detrimental to the canned food industry.

The fact that Canada's three-year defence plan is now expected to cost a lot more than originally estimated is in part due to rising costs.

Toronto police prosecuted 14,259 persons for drunkenness in 1951, greatest number in 38 years, Chief John Chisholm reports.

The British Labour Party, it appears, lived up to the reputation of those temporizing with the enemy, but at the same time keeping their powder dry.

Four young farmers have been selected to represent the Scottish Young Farmers' Club Association on a three-months visit to Canada.

Northern Ireland's two Nationalist M.P.'s who have absented themselves from the House of Commons at Westminster for 12 years, have now been instructed by the Ulster Nationalists to abandon their strike.

Some consolation. Scientific investigation seems to prove that detrimental effects on descendants of atom bomb victims disappear in three years.

If the C. N. R. were privately owned it would have undergone the process of being recapitalized, perhaps many times.

Elisa Rachel, French tragic actress whose real name was Elizabeth Felix, was born this date 1821, in Aargau, Switzerland, discovered singing in the streets of Paris at the age of nine.

Among the challenges still to be met in Public Health improvement are the following in which the Health League is taking direct action: implementation of legislation making pasteurization of milk compulsory in every province.

The Health League of Canada has a separate division responsible for education work in each of these vital areas," Dr. Bates pointed out.

No Redistribution For Us



The Poet's Corner

THE ONSET

I know that winter death has never tried The earth but it has failed: the snow may heap In long storms an undrifted four feet deep As measured against maple, birch and oak, It cannot check the peeper's silver croak: And I shall see the snow all go down hill In water of a slender April rill That flashes tall through last year's withered brake And dead weeds, like a disappearing snake, Nothing will be left white but here a birch, And there a clump of houses with a church.

—Robert Frost.

Old Charlottetown (And P. E. I.)

SEAL AND COD BOUNTIES

Early legislative efforts in encouraging the fisheries of the Province are indicated in the following resolutions adopted by the House of Assembly on March 23, 1844:

"That the sum of ten shillings per ton be granted and paid on each vessel that is properly fitted out from this Island for the seal fishery, for the current year; and that the sum remaining (after the bounty on the tonnage is paid) out of the £180 granted as a bounty, be paid and divided among the owners of the three vessels which may deliver the greatest quantity of seals on this Island, in such proportions as may be provided for in the bill to be passed for the encouragement of the fisheries in the present session."

"That the sum of fifty pounds be paid out of the sum appropriated for this session for fish bounties, as a premium to the person who shall export to the West Indies, or any foreign market, during the ensuing season, the greatest quantity of codfish, not less than 700 quintals, being the catch and cure of any person or persons being inhabitants of this Colony; and the remaining £150 to be appropriated, at the rate of six pence per quintal, to every such person as shall export from this Island, during the ensuing season, not less than 600 quintals of codfish, being the catch and cure as aforesaid."

"That for the years 1845 and 1846, the sum of £300 be expended on the seal fishery, and £200 on the cod fishery each year."

Improved Public Health

Among the challenges still to be met in Public Health improvement are the following in which the Health League is taking direct action: implementation of legislation making pasteurization of milk compulsory in every province (at present this is provided only in Ontario and Saskatchewan); reduction in the national infant mortality rate (Canada is now down in 13th place among the leading nations of the world); improvement in the nutritional standards of Canadian families (this has a direct bearing on reducing the number of infant deaths as well as on improving the general health of all Canadians); expanding the practice of preventive medicine in industry; treating alcoholism as a physical disease and in its acknowledged relationship to other diseases; recognizing and dealing with the new problems facing Canada as its number of elder citizens rapidly increases.

Notes By The Way

A Cinderella burglar in Detroit jumped right out of his shoes when pursuing police began shooting at him. Had he run that hard after an honest job, his feet would by now be giving him less trouble. —Hamilton Spectator.

A pupil who cannot express himself at least adequately in his native tongue leaves school at a permanent disadvantage in life. If he has not learned to read understandingly, the greatest part of the world's knowledge is barred to him. And every citizen of a country as wealthy and advanced as Canada ought to be able to write a letter which says what he means in a brief and correct form. Perhaps some of our anxieties about English studies in our schools would yield to the simple device of giving more time and more teachers to that subject.

Members of the London, Ontario, Council were discussing the word "booze." It was pointed out it is a perfectly good English word and no apologies need be offered for using it. It is indeed a proper word, and its variants are equally proper in other languages such as "bouse" in French; "busen" in Dutch, and "bausen" in German. It is an old word suggesting the problem it represents is equally old and prevalent in every country. There is nothing wrong with the word "booze" itself. The sting is in the implications, Windsor Star.

Canada has presented Australia with Canadian maple trees to be planted in Hobart, Tasmania, as symbols of the friendship and amity between the two dominions. A tree makes a valuable and beautiful memorial gift and our maples should do well in the mild climate of Tasmania. The gift is a reminder of the growing scarcity of our own hard maples in gardens, parks and pleasure grounds. The hard maple is the handsomest of our Ontario hardwoods. We should plant more of them. —London Free Press.

Both Queen Elizabeth II and her husband, the Duke of Edinburgh, are by their ancestry linked to the Danish Royal House. The Queen and the Duke have a mutual great-great-grandfather in the Danish King Christian IX who reigned from 1863 to 1906. He was great-grandfather of the present Danish King, and he earned for himself the nickname, "the grandfather of Europe," because his two sons became kings, and two of his daughters married kings of European countries. —Danish News Service.

The Tecumseh Public Utilities Commission is to erect an aluminum flagpole on its renovated office building. It thus is following the example of others who have used steel or aluminum poles. But it still seems somewhat strange in a country such as Canada, which probably, in the raw form, has more natural material for what once composed flagpoles than any country in the world. Time was when our forests provided all the stately flagpoles necessary for our own use, and we exported tall timbers for flagpoles and masts to many parts of the world. The aluminum poles are hardy, light, strong and durable. And, if we are one of the greatest producers of wood products in the world, we are one of the greatest producers of aluminum. It's just that aluminum flagpoles still seem rather strange to those reared in the era of the tall wooden ones. —Windsor Daily Star.

A sidelight on whether ministers of the church receive sufficient in the way of salaries comes in the report from St. Thomas that a clergyman had answered an advertisement of vacancies on the fire department. The minister said he was attracted by the salary and cost-of-living bonus features of the job. It may be, of course, the clergyman is seeking a change in vocation. But certainly the salary of a fireman interested him, which suggests he isn't too well paid now. There has been concern in the larger cities as to whether all ministers are receiving big enough salaries in view of the high costs of living. But many rural pastors receive much less than the scales which prevail in cities. —Windsor Daily Star.

There is not much room left for skepticism about the efficacy of fluorine-treated water in resisting tooth decay. Wherever tests are made they show an unvarying result—better teeth among young people. Fluorine's efficiency is not 100 per cent, nor is it necessary that it should be that high to warrant use of this chemical. Any substantial percentage of improvement will be ample compensation for the cost. A pioneer in experimentation with fluorine-treated water, Branford has a head start on most municipalities. It has been reporting progress in the fight against tooth decay for years. Last week it was able to underscore them, with the latest report on its tests. The gist of this finding is that dental defects in Branford children are down more than one-third in seven years. The number of city children with perfect teeth has advanced from 5.16 per cent to 18.97. —Windsor Star.

Associated with us, our own members and our staff are greatly encouraged in this effort by the readiness with which the press and radio in all parts of the country have shouldered their responsibility in this public service. The favorable attitude of all publicity media augurs well for the future success of public health education in Canada.

The Age-Old Story

And God saw everything that he had made, and behold, it was very good.

The Passing Scene

By Observer

CAN MAN SUBDUDE NATURE?

Appropos of something or other, it doesn't really matter what, an after-dinner speaker at a recent gathering in one of our large cities exclaimed: "The subjugation of nature is now just about complete!"

Eloquent he might have been. Wise he was not. That any thinking man in this day and age could bring himself to give expression to anything at all about what man can or cannot do, it is that he has no ultimate power whatever over Nature or any of her forces. He can, at best, be a junior partner in Nature's works.

In almost every recorded instance of man's conflict with his natural environment Nature has not only come out on top but has been able to laugh in amusement at man's discomfiture. That is if Nature, metaphorically speaking, is capable of laughter. Usually she is much too stern for any such frivolity.

The only possible exception exists in man's conflict with disease. Even here, there is some question about it. For one thing, it is at least doubtful that disease can properly be called natural. For another, while science has discovered how to render some bacteria innocuous, at least so far as man's health is concerned, it has also learned that without some forms of bacteria human life would not be possible at all. Apparently, even the so-called "miracle drugs," beneficial though they are, are not altogether one-sided in their effects, for in some cases, we are told, Nature has an embarrassing way of building up immunity from them.

It is, of course, apparent that when any speaker orates about the "subjugation" of Nature he is thinking of atomic power. The "mastery of the atom" he considers to be the achievement "par excellence" of man's technological skill. But nothing that has been done so far in this spectacular sphere warrants any sort of jubilant optimism. Far from indicating man's power over Nature, it suggests, as matters now stand, the possible, ever probable, destruction of the human race. What effect it will have on the ultimate outlasting of war remains to be seen. Many thinking people are of the opinion that it will have none at all unless man's moral attainments begin to catch up with his technological ability. And that very soon, for there isn't much time left for closing of the gap.

Should man continue to dilly-dally in this respect, concentration on Nature's subjugation instead of mastery of himself—and there is nothing so far to indicate any real change—has almost certain to become the victim of his own supposed mastery of his environment. That would be his end. Nature, presumably, would remain as lively as ever.

No one who has ever stood in a garden and pondered on the mysteries of growth could ever talk about any such nonsense as man's mastery over Nature. Here, as elsewhere, Nature will have her way whatever man may or may not do. If he is wise, sympathetic, and kind in his dealings with the earth, Nature will go along with him joyfully and untriflingly, in the words of the ancient poet, "The valleys will stand so thick with corn that they will rejoice. They will also sing!" If he is not wise, sympathetic, and kind; if, on the contrary, he affects to be the lord of creation, which he is not, Nature will strike back at his conceit sternly and swiftly. Soil erosion, infertility, and even, sometimes, drought, are Nature's ways of retuning man's claim to supremacy.

Many ages ago some man more enterprising than his fellows left his tent, went into the jungle and brought out a few wild birds. They were the ancestors of the laying hen which has contributed more than her share to man's nurture and health. Nature seemingly put up with this robbery from her preserve so long as the robber used reason and moderation in his exploitation of the birds he had stolen.

Moderation, however, is not one of man's common virtues, so in course of time he began to feel that bigger and ever bigger flocks were the answer to his economic needs in this respect. Nature, patient up to now, apparently no longer relishes the idea of her creatures' becoming a mass producing machine in the selfish interest of man. So, virus epidemics appeared, such as his economic loss. That was a good while ago. In spite of scientific preventive measures since then, epidemics still give a lot of trouble from time to time. And it is interesting to note that they usually strike large flocks.

Are we to conclude that Nature will permit men to go so far in the process of exploitation without charge, and, if he is bent on going beyond that, she will demand a price? It looks very much like it.

Coming back for a moment to soil erosion, one result of man's attempted ruthless exploitation of Nature's gifts, it has been estimated that, at the rate it is going on, another one hundred and fifty years will see the end of agricultural production, at least in any sound economic sense. It is also said that in about half that time the Americas (North and South) will be quite unable to feed their own populations.

When this prediction was first made a few years ago the dietary experts were not unduly alarmed over the prospect. In their view, at that time, most of the staple foods could, if necessary, be manufactured synthetically. This might be less pleasant than the natural process but, at least, it would keep people from starving. Recently, however, their assurance on this point has been noticeably lessened by other tests which demonstrate the inadequacy of a totally synthetic diet.

There seem to be profound mysteries in the process of body nourishment which no amount of synthetic manipulation has been able to unravel. Here, too, it looks as if Nature will hold the upper hand for some time to come.

Several centuries ago, in the dawning days of the Renaissance Period, a poet mused on the impetus that more intensive learning might come to have on man's conceit. In the course of his musing he thought of the decay of ancient, proud Rome. At the same time he recalled that the River Tiber, one of Nature's glories, continued to flow on its given course as it had done long ages before the mighty empire had been thought of. He put his thoughts into an epigram which ought to have sobering effect on anyone who might be tempted to boast of man's dominion over Nature. "See here how Fortune Reigns: The Unmoved wanes, And that which is for ever passing on, remains."

PROFESSIONAL CARDS

Advertisement for professional services including Gaudet & Haszard (Barristers and Solicitors), Dr. John E. Sterns (Veterinary Surgeon), Dr. A. L. MacIsaac (Dentist), Allison M. Gillis (Barrister, Solicitor, Etc.), Chas. R. McQuaid (Barrister, Solicitor, Notary, Etc.), H. R. Doane and Company (Chartered Accountants), and McDonald, Currie & Co. (Chartered Accountants).