

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, MONDAY, DEC. 29, 1952

Harmony Or Tune

There are constant efforts being made to bring about uniformity in something or other. Educators want uniform history books. Merchants want uniform store hours. Consumers want uniform products. Politicians want uniform constituencies and lawyers want uniform laws. The list is endless and there is a very serious danger that much of the richness of life will be lost if the pressure is successful.

Some people seem to think that the ideal national life would consist of everyone doing and thinking the same thing at the same time and that anyone who opposes such a worthy end is an enemy of progress to say the least. Musicians, however, have long passed that infantile stage. Long before the days of mass production they learned that harmony could be achieved by combining what might seem to be unlike tunes. Anyone during the past thousand years or so who advocated that all instruments should play the same note at the same time would have been considered anything but progressive.

If we were to cultivate differing habits, even varying our times a little, it would mean that restaurants would be able to serve far more meals. Electric light plants would be able to supply a far larger number of customers. Transportation would be greatly eased. It would mean that when a particular individual finished his day's work or took his half-holiday he would find that business and social life was going on normally.

A contrary policy in New Zealand has resulted in a wasted week-end. Everyone has the week-end off with the result that the workers cannot get transportation to sports or obtain access to museums. They just have to stay put until the long, long, week-end is over.

Business Conditions

In a review of business conditions in Canada, the Financial Post finds that not only has the past year been a lot more prosperous than many had dared to expect, but that there is, on balance, "a solid floor of prosperity ahead" for the country in 1953. Prices generally are not likely to move very much either way. The food dollar should buy a little more. Some commodities are in for declines as new capacity comes into operation. A few prices will rise. But nothing properly called recession is in the picture as of now.

The past twelve months, the Post reports, have been the most prosperous in Canadian history. The total value of the country's production of goods and services has topped all previous records. Labor income, retail sales, total investment, all are at the highest ever. Today, despite high prices and high taxes, there is 60 per cent more for each Canadian to spend or save as he pleases than there was in 1939. That is in real terms, taking into account higher prices.

The heaviest buying spree on record was induced this year, not by any panic, but by the desire of Canadians to enjoy the comforts of life, and the availability of the money (and the credit) with which to buy them. They jammed the stores, not from fear of war or threat of scarcities, but by their own free wills. Demand and supply came more into line. Generally speaking, prices stopped rising. Many dropped. More competition at home and abroad forced more efficiency and that trend, the Post predicts, is likely to accelerate in the months ahead.

In fisheries, the domestic market outlook is good, with the trend toward higher per capita consumption of fish and improved refrigeration and transportation facilities. New market areas are being opened in the United States. Both may help offset continued curtailed buying in the sterling bloc and the lowered returns, particularly on the East Coast, resulting from the increased value of the U. S. dollar in relation to ours. Prices are expected to hold at 1952 levels.

How stands agriculture? The Post carries a statement in this connection from the Canadian Federation of Agriculture president, Mr. H. H. Hannam. The outlook, Mr. Hannam finds, is "both favourable and unfavourable." High employment and relatively high purchasing power assure farmers of a strong domestic market, but short age of Canadian dollars, together with trade restrictions, make export market prospects

uncertain. Industries depending primarily on farm purchasing power in dairy and mixed farming district may expect to lose ground. The outlook is for lower beef cattle prices in the United States in 1953 which does not promise much for Canadian beef producers. Hog production and prices will both be lower. The Federal-Provincial Conference in Ottawa early in December expected farm prices, generally speaking, to continue their downward trend and high farm costs in turn to hold or continue slightly on their upward trend.

These facts must be faced, and given due consideration in the overall picture. To talk of business or industry becoming more prosperous without considering farm interests is to take a very short-sighted view. It is to be hoped that everything possible will be done at Ottawa to enable our farmers to compete profitably both in home and foreign markets. If the present difficulties with regard to trading with the sterling nations could be lessened during the coming year it would be of great advantage to all concerned. One encouraging factor has been the salvaging of much of the 1951 wheat crop, coupled with the record crop this year and excellent harvests across the country.

New British Coins

New British coins are to be released for circulation next May. From the half-crown downward, the design shows the Queen's uncrowned head and shoulders. On the head is a laurel wreath, tied at the back with flowing ribbon above two rolls of curls lying over the nape of the neck. In the use of the uncrowned effigy of the monarch, and in its details, this design follows old traditions. It is rather heavily hemmed in by the Latin inscription, and it has been criticized as making Her Majesty look too young. The designer, Mrs. Mary Gillick, 71-year-old widow of a sculptor and noted for her work in portrait reliefs, thinks the impression of serious youth is just right.

On the reverse of the shilling, England and Scotland will have differing designs, because in each country the quarterings are marshalled differently on the shield of the Royal Arms. A new design for the florin and the sixpence displays the Welsh leek for the first time, together with thistle, shamrock, and rose. After the Coronation, a commemorative five-shilling piece with the crowned head of the monarch will be issued. Ordinarily, the crowned head is shown only on coins of the colonial territories. The coronation piece is sure to be in great demand as a keepsake.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Prime Minister Churchill's proposed informal talks with President-elect Eisenhower might well lead in time to the pooling of information on advances in atomic science. Policies of strict security precautions seriously retard the advancement of knowledge in this as other fields.

More houses were started in each section of Canada this year than in 1951. Only in the Atlantic Provinces, however, were more completed than in the previous year. Whether this reflects a longer period of prosperity or a smaller demand for other than domestic building is not indicated.

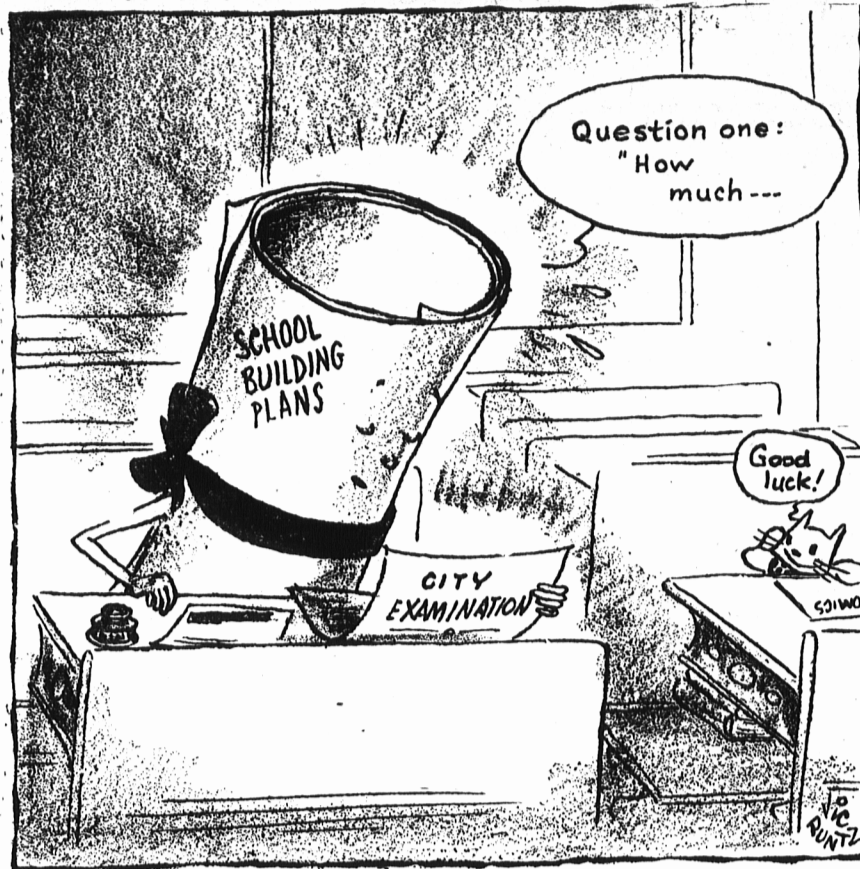
Treatment of 9,000 animals in response to 5,000 calls and travelling some 115,000 miles in the first year of the Provincial veterinary service is indeed an impressive showing. The Director, Dr. George C. Fisher, and his associates have found that there is a big job to be done and are doing it.

Statements coming from Communist sources are assumed with good reason to be very largely propaganda. It seems unfair, however, that the New York Times should submit a list of questions for Premier Stalin to answer and then editorially comment that there is little reason to hope that the answers represent anything but "just another psychological warfare manoeuvre."

A comprehensive study of human relations in industry is featured in the current issue of "Public Affairs". The author is Dr. A. A. MacVicar, of the Division of Mental Health in Prince Edward Island, who is at present engaged in psychiatric work at Falconwood and in the clinics and general hospitals of the Province as therapist and consultant.

Christina Georgina Rossetti, British poet, sister of Dante Gabriel and William Michael Rossetti, died this date 1894. Even as a child she wrote verses. Her best work was "Goblin Market and Other Poems". In it and other work she showed exquisite lyrical style, sometimes touched with sadness, written with a unique simplicity and purity of tone. Her works include "A Prince's Progress" and "A Pageant."

Everybody's Counting On Him To Pass



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.

A CONCRETE EXAMPLE

Sir.—We all have our heroes. The 10 year old boy sees a teen-ager quite clever in handling a cigarette and admires him. The German youth hailed Hitler in admiration and Stalin occupies the place of God. But in this writer's eyes, the teacher of 40 boys in a school in London, Eng., is God's hero. His teaching began 20 years ago, when he taught every subject except faith in God, for he knew nothing of that. This season of Advent is a wonderful time to plant the seed of that virtue. It has been said that love came down at the first Christmas. It has also been truly said that if love was born in human flesh a thousand times in Bethlehem, it would not avail as much for us, as to have Him born in our own hearts and affections. This is just what happened to Basil Chapman the London school master. When I first made his acquaintance, he was in a winning fight against evil among his pupils.

Lying, stealing from one another and window breaking was dealt with in an unusual way. His affection for them won their confidence. He told them of his own mistakes and wrong doing. He encouraged them to look for God's guidance, which they learn to do. He has written of conscience money being returned by them, he considers the worst boy in the number as being the one needing the most consideration and kindness. As he looks forward now to 1953, he resolves to make the building of Christian character his highest aim. He counts himself a medium between the children and their Heavenly Father. And says that if his endeavors fail to bear fruit, it will be because sin in his own life has shut off right relationship with the pupils and also with God. This surely is a case of the Divine being working through human hands.

You'll wonder how the man got that way. It began when he accepted an invitation to supper at the home of one of his pupils. In the life and conversation of his host he saw "Faith in action". And as a result, Christ was born in his heart. Genuine faith is very contagious.

I am, Sir, etc. ARCH. MACKENZIE Kensington.

Old Charlottetown

(And P. E. I.)

COOPERS' PETITION

House of Assembly, Feb. 14, 1832: "A petition from the Coopers of Charlottetown was this day presented to the House by Mr. Binns, complaining of the slovenly manner in which beef, pork, flour, oatmeal and other articles of export were often packed and shipped off, frequently in molasses puncheons and such unseemly packages, by interested individuals, who had no regard for any interests but their own, by means of which the reputation of the Colony was compromised in the eyes of other countries—and praying the House to enact a law to put a stop to similar enormities in future."

No action appears to have been taken on this petition, which, according to the Royal Gazette, was discussed by the members and "excited much amusement."

UN MONUMENT

STOCKHOLM, Sweden.—(CP)—Professor Carl Milles, 78-year-old sculptor, says he has entered negotiations with the secretary of the United Nations for a monument outside the UN building in New York. The monument is to cost an estimated \$350,000.

International Relations

By W. N. Ewer

This year 1952 has, in the field of international relations been a strange one. Strange, not because of outstanding events and developments, but because of their absence. There have been of course been many local happenings with important bearing on international affairs. The United States elections and the change of regime in Egypt, are obvious examples. There have been developments, and important ones, in the growth of such institutions as NATO and the still embryonic European community. There has been at least one major and more than welcome change—the transformation in Anglo-Egyptian relations. But the over all picture at the close of 1952 is strangely similar to the over all picture at the close of 1951. The dominant fact in world politics is the tension between the Soviet-Chinese bloc and the outer world. It can hardly be said to have increased or to have diminished during the past twelve months. The prophecies that 1952 was likely to be the year of crisis have not been fulfilled.

Even in its local manifestations, the world scene has scarcely changed. I have just been looking back at the news of the last days of 1951 and the first days of 1952. The items are almost grotesquely like those of the last days of 1952.

Year's Balance

(New York Times)

The short days are upon us. We're close to the winter solstice, but the day's change now is slight. Daylight, sunrise to sunset, will shorten only another two minutes or so before it begins to lengthen. The evening change, in fact, has already begun, the year's earliest sunset already past; but sunrise will continue to lag on through the year's end.

Thus the year balances its accounts. In our latitude we know that each year brings the time when not only the candle but the hearth fire must burn at both ends of the day, symbol hot of waste but of warmth and comfort. The sun cuts a small arc far to the south and shadows and cold lie deep. It is for this time that we, if we live close to the land, lay up the firewood and the fodder. Now we pay for the long days of summer, pay in the ample currency of daylight. Hour for hour, the accounts are balanced.

And yet, the short days provide their own bonus. The snows come, and dusk and dawn are like no other time of the year. We come to a long winter night when the moon rides full over a white world and the darkness thins away. For the full-moon night is as long as the longest day of summer. And the snowy world gleams and glows with an incandescent shimmer.

Year to year, we remember the short days but we tend to forget the long nights when the moon rides high over a cold and brittle-white world. Not only the moon nights, but the star nights, when it seems one can stand on a hilltop and touch the Dipper. Who would not cut wood and burn a candle for a few such nights each year?

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Notes By The Way

Plans for extension of the oil pipe line from Superior to Sarnia have had sequel in increased valuations on Alberta oil stocks, in the expectation of lower transportation costs. At the same time some value has disappeared from the tanker fleet that was produced to carry the oil down the Great Lakes.—Port Arthur News-Chronicle.

It is a mark of Europe's civilization that in honoring Charlie Chaplin artistic merit is made the criterion. Chaplin's latest batch of diplomas awards, and other distinctions is being given him during a visit to Italy. Unfortunately those who criticize him on this continent seem more concerned to exalt mediocrity than to appreciate genius.—Ottawa Citizen.

An addition may shortly be expected to the long list of less than works by men of the law, such as Addison on Torts and Russell on Crimes. It will be Asquith on Muffins and Crumpets. Lord Asquith of Bishopstone is the jurist who deplores the gradual displacing of the Englishman's former mainstay by the letter, defined by him, with legal precision, as "limp, lardaceous, pockmarked parodies of muffins".—(Ottawa Citizen).

A St. Thomas housewife got a big surprise, not unpleasant, the other day when she looked on the label on a package of green peas she had bought in a local store and found they were processed in Lethbridge Alberta. And that is not all. The Lethbridge Herald warns eastern Canada food producers that they are going to be bombarded with Southern Alberta grown tomatoes. No need to start dodging; looks as if the west is standing on its own feet more and more, every day.—St. Thomas Times-Journal.

The ardent Republican's face crimsoned in righteous wrath as he berated a fellow GOP'er who had switched to the Democrats in the recent election. "A man like that ought to be ridden out of town on a rail," he fumed. "But, father, his colleague son reminded, 'you aren't consistent. A few minutes ago, you were praising all those Democrats who voted Republican. The parent placed a tolerant hand upon the youth's shoulder. 'You might as well learn the solid truth now, son,' he said. 'Those who go over to the other party are traitors. Those who change to ours are converts.'—(Wall Street Journal).

The Age-Old Story

And Moses called all Israel, and said unto them, Hear, O Israel, the statutes and judgements which I speak in your ears this day, that ye may learn them, and keep, and do them.

A Toronto teacher, after a period studying the teaching of English in the United Kingdom says more grammar is taught there. And he found higher standards in Scotland than in England. Scotland is not a rich country. Yet it always has excelled in scholarship and in devotion to education which suggests the excellence of education isn't necessarily proportionate to the amount of money spent on it.—Windsor Star.

Speaking of the British Legion's campaign for an increase from 55s to 90s a week in the basic British war pension for total disablement, Sir Ian Fraser, MP, said that the amounts at present paid to the severely disabled, including additional allowances, were still well below the average wage of the unskilled worker. He argued that this should be put right as a "debt of honor" to ex-Servicemen. Sir Ian, who is president of the British Legion, said there were 49,661 men with 100 per cent disablement, and of these 42,500 received one or more of the extra allowances, but it was among 644,550 disabled in lesser degree that the greatest discrepancy occurred.—London Times.

In his remarks to various meetings connected with the provincial exhibition, Premier Duplessis has rightly emphasized the need for young men and women to stay on the farms, instead of coming to the cities to find careers. In a world suffering from a basic shortage of food, the present drift to the cities may soon become a serious problem. There was a time when such advice could be justifiably received with cynicism by the men and women chiefly concerned, the sons and daughters of farmers. But the land has changed much since the middle of the last century, and the change has been accelerated since the end of the war. The land now offers a good life.—Quebec Telegraph-Journal.

The Poet's Corner

FROM "EXIT"

Easily to the old Opens the hard ground: But when youth grows cold, And red lips have no sound, Bitterly does the earth Open to receive And bitterly do the graves In the churchyard graze.

Cold clay knows how to hold An aged hand; But how to comfort youth It does not understand. Even the gravel rasps In a dumb way When youth comes homing Before its day.

—Wilson Macdonald.

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