

"Covers Prince Edward Island Like the Dew"
Published every week-day morning at 165 Prince Street
Charlottetown, P.E.I., by the Thomson Company Ltd.
44 King St. W., Toronto.
Montreal Office, 225 University Tower Bldg.,
Jan A. Burnett, Publisher and General Manager.
Member Canadian Daily Newspaper
Publishers Association
Member of The Canadian Press
Member Audit Bureau of Circulations
Branch offices at Summerside, Montserrat and Alberton
Authorized as Second Class Mail by the Post Office
Department, Ottawa.
By Carrier, Charlottetown, Summerside \$15.00 per annum
Elsewhere in P.E.I. \$20.00. Other Provinces and
U.S. \$12.50 per annum.

"The strongest memory is weaker than
the weakest ink."

PAGE 4 MONDAY, DEC. 24, 1956

Festival Of Christmas

Christmas, more than any other, is a festival of the home. It calls back to the family hearth all the members who have left or strayed. It speaks a special word to the children and many of the oldest and best loved customs are for their delight. Though essentially Christian in origin and purpose, appealing to the deepest religious instincts, it communicates its spirit to all men of good-will whatever their faith or cynicism. The keynote of Christmas is joy; its message is hope and peace, and its expression is love. Though we customarily celebrate with presents and feasting, it is not mere things which make the festival. Rather it is an outgoing attitude or feeling, when minds and hearts touch each other with warmth.

For all who will find this Christmas a sad occasion, through misfortune, bereavement, a loved one's absence, the loneliness of old age, or many other reasons which might intervene to mar enjoyment, there will be sympathy. And it is tragic to reflect that in this day and age, two thousand years after the birth of Christianity, not individuals only but whole communities and nations are in bondage, or in dire want of the very necessities of life. It is dangerously easy for us to be complacent about our high standard of living, our smoothly working democracy and our relative immunity to direct assault by an aggressor. These advantages are mainly due to the accidents of history and geography. They do not arise from racial superiority. Nor is it inferiority that condemns hundreds of millions of people to live in poverty, subjection and fear. Let us remember in our gladness the sorrows of the world.

Our treasured legend of the season tells how Christmas blossomed in the soul of the man Scrooge, the miser who came to generosity and happiness through strange visitations. And surely it is the way of our faith that anxiety should be laid aside, when the good deeds within our powers have been done, and that each in his own way should make holiday with thanksgiving. And let us again, this Christmas, fervently thank God that we are so happily placed and unite our prayers with the millions of devout souls in every part of the world that the peace of which the Angels sang will come to this sorely tried world—peace through its only true source, the Prince of Peace.

And to all our readers, young and old, at home and abroad, a very Merry Christmas.

"No Black Angels"

A nice theological question has been posed by Dr. William Nicol, administrator to the Transvaal and a leading figure in the Protestant church of South Africa. He asks: "Why no black angels in our children's Bibles?" The Manchester Guardian tells the story of what is happening in the effort of the Bantu in struggling to grasp facts about Christianity. The writer says:

At a recent conference held in Johannesburg the 40 main Protestant churches in South Africa discussed the problems of making the Bible understandable to the Bantu. The Bantu find the facts as presented to them at the moment confusing and hard to grasp.

Dr. Nicol asks: "What right have we, after all, to demand that the angels in our children's Bibles should all be white angels—the Chinese picture theirs with slanting eyes. Why cannot Bantu have books with black angels?" He also called for the Protestant faith to be explained to the Bantu people with recourse to material from some of their own myths, legends and idiom. At the moment the whole biblical background is unfamiliar and hard for them to visualize.

If the angels in some Bibles become black, will there be a change in their traditional garb of flowing white robe, and arched, feathered wings? Would Bantu angels wear Bantu undress (with wings)? Or might they be depicted in traditional "Mother Hubbards"? Protestant missions must be turning over this delicate point.

There is, incidentally, a black Christ in the altar piece of the chapel at Makerere university college, in Uganda.

Oyster Grading

A matter of concern to the oyster fishery, in which this Province is keenly interested, is reported by the Fisheries Council of Canada. It deals with the complaints of many customers regarding poor grading methods. Oysters are graded on shape only—with no regard to size, unless they are of an illegal size. In order to satisfy the needs of the restaurant and hotel trade for uniformity, it appears essential that the regulations be overhauled and the grading based on both shape and size. Otherwise, "Choice" boxes for instance with proper grading will continue to contain oysters of 3½ inches and of 7 or 8 inches in length. The variation in length makes it almost impossible for a public place to satisfy its guests.

"This is the type of problem," says the Fisheries Council, "which should occupy the close attention of the oyster committee which the Council asked the Minister to establish. We have been advised that the committee will be established shortly and will meet in the spring. In the interval, it is to be hoped that the various interests concerned—producers, shippers, distributors and government agencies, will review the current unsatisfactory situation and come to that meeting with concrete proposals for improvement."

When the present regulations were adopted it was because they were desired by the industry. If now they are out-of-date and hurting the trade, both industry and government should agree to change them as expeditiously as possible.

EDITORIAL NOTES

A young film star has been nominated for the Rectorship of the University of Aberdeen. She has about as much chance of being elected as the present Rector has of becoming a film star.

Some Londoners, facing the oil shortage realistically, are riding to and from work on horseback and enjoying the change. Which proves that not everybody has become a slave to the machine.

An astronomer has announced that the universe, which is now expanding, will in due course start to contract. There's no need for immediate alarm, however. The man says it won't happen for another billion years anyway.

Prime Minister Nehru says he has no "magical plan" for solving Middle East problems. What made him think of that? Surely, no one has ever suggested that Mr. Nehru's diplomatic talents were quite that good.

A specialist in the subject says that not every cook can expect to become a "culinary genius" after the first or second attempt. No, and there are cooks who don't reach that status even after the third or fourth attempt.

Well, there's at least one activity in which the United States is not ahead of other nations: coffee drinking. The Swedes drink more of the brew than any other people, their per capita consumption being 16.1 pounds a year. The Americans come next with 15.8 pounds.

An international controversy is developing over the proposal to add two nations to the Security Council of the U.N. The United States wants the two to be elected immediately, while the Soviet Union says the matter must await the admission of Communist China to the U.N. What does it matter anyway? What advantage would there be in increasing the membership from 11 to 13? There's no doubt about it—a lot of valuable time at the U.N. is spent on inconsequential matters.



AT ITS CENTRE

Greatest Day of The Year

By Loyd Phillips, of The St. Peterburg Independent

"Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord has made known unto us". St. Luke 2:15.

The shepherd listened as the solitude of night was enchanted by Angel voices, while a multitude of the heavenly host sang of peace and good will toward men. Joined by his companions, the shepherd went with haste to the manger and found "this thing the Lord has made known unto us". The shepherds saw Mary and Joseph and the infant, and they went away praising God for what they had seen and heard.

The shepherds went their way rejoicing because their eyes had seen, their simple minds had understood and their hearts had accepted the Divine gift the oppressed world had long awaited. They saw the glorious fulfillment of hundreds of years of prophecy, and they were grateful.

THE SHEPHERD'S VISION
The eyes of the shepherds saw more than a mere infant swaddled in burlap; they saw in the manger the evidence of God's great love and the triumph of life over death. Through the prophetic vision allowed the shepherds, they witnessed the reason for the greatest change ever wrought in the ideals and customs of mankind. With the notes of the heavenly choir reverberating in their ears, the inspired shepherds heard and believed the angel's promise that there was nothing to fear. Fortunate indeed were the shepherds. As they walked into the manger, they were the first to cross the threshold of a new era and into a new world where love and good will triumph over hate and greed. They saw an infant which has overcome and outlasted all the mighty empires of the earth. They saw a child who became the world's greatest teacher and the hallmark of brotherly love and self-sacrifice.

However, the miraculous birth at Bethlehem was only the beginning of the Christ story and we cannot let it end there.

A CRUCIAL TIME
At Bethlehem, began the most amazing phenomenon in all history. A baby born in a stable and brought up as a carpenter, Christ was regarded as an average tradesman by His neighbors in Nazareth. At 30 years of age He started to teach, and within 3 years His teachings began to change the course of history. At 33 He was crucified as a common felon and put to death along with two thieves. This cruel crucifixion of Jesus was a sign of His time and typified the brutality of a Godless era. Mankind needed a Saviour, but was not worthy of Him. Nevertheless, He came. He came to a world hot with rebellion and rampant with hate. He came at a time when life was saturated with idolatry and religion was a mockery.

The shadow of despair had settled over the soul of man and the crucifixion marked the blackest day in history.

Today it is inspiring to reflect that His story did not end on Calvary, for which fact every Christian is humbly grateful. Golgotha is remembered as the darkest hour before the dawn of man's redemption. Today, after nearly twenty centuries, have passed, the course He set is still the only one which offers peace of mind and soul.

RENEWAL OF FAITH
So, at this hallowed Christmas time we turn again to the crib in the stable in Bethlehem for a renewal of faith from the never-dying message of peace and joy which touches the hearts and minds of everyone everywhere.

Today, let every gift and greeting be exchanged in the spirit of good will and brotherhood. Today as we are uplifted by the strains of Christmas carols, let's take time to review the world's most inspiring story of God's love in which the best things ever done by man are done in the spirit of friendship which is never shadowed with regret or spoiled by counting the cost.

THE START AND FINISH
This is Christmas! It is the start and finish of man's greatest recognition by his Creator and an enduring demonstration of how a man gains good by giving good and receives joy by giving joy.

This is Christ's Day! Today, a few hours the world of commerce and industry shuts down and we rise above the blackness of hate, discord and suspicion to celebrate the coming of Him at whose manger had eternal love and righteousness were born anew.

This is the great day of the year! This is the 1956th annual commemoration of the end of ancient history and the beginning of the Christian era. On this joyous but sacred day, let us turn our eyes toward the manger, toward the Christ for whom there was no room at the inn. Let us join the shepherds and go see this thing the Lord has made known to us. May the true spirit of Christmas fill our hearts this season and draw us closer in the bonds of Christian brotherhood.

OUR YESTERDAYS

From The Guardian Files

TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO (December 24, 1931)

The P. E. I. Fur Pool Ltd. of Summerside, has just received a cable advice from their Paris agents to the effect that as a result of the first Paris auction sales their whole offering was disposed off at prices at least 10 per cent above the average of last season's sales.

During his recent visit to Boston and Chicago, from which he returned last evening, His Honor Lieutenant Governor Dalton was entertained by many former Islanders. The evening before his departure, Governor Dalton was the guest of honor at an Islanders banquet at the University Club where he was presented with a walking cane.

TEN YEARS AGO
(December 24, 1946)

Mechanical trouble, occurring at the same time as flood conditions, caused damage to the dam of the Seales Hydro Electric Co. Ltd., Freetown, and caused a partial blackout last night of the areas serviced by the company particularly in Kinkora and Bedeque which were without service throughout the night.

A meeting of strawberry growers was held recently in the Legion Hall at Mount Stewart, the object of the meeting being to form an organization which would assist the growers in the production and marketing of strawberries, and as a result the Mr. Stewart Strawberry Exchange was formed.

GREAT MOUNTAINS

The Andes mountain plateau extends more than 2,000 miles from Ecuador to southern Bolivia.

MAXIMS

Every man should keep a fair-sized cemetery in which to bury the faults of his friends.

CITY IN ARCTIC

The Swedish city of Kiruna, 90 miles north of the Arctic Circle, was founded in 1899.

Star Weekly Contest

offers

\$1,000 CASH PRIZE

What was your favorite movie of 1956... your favorite actor... your favorite actress? Your selections may win you a \$1,000 Cash Prize. This week's Star Weekly tells the details of a Movie Popularity Poll in which Star Weekly readers may compete for this big cash prize.

Get this week's Star Weekly. Read the rules and send in your entry. Send in as many entries as you wish. And if you don't win the \$1,000 Cash Prize you may win one of 200 other prizes... a free pass for two people for a whole year to your favorite movie theatre.

THE NEW NEW NEW Star Weekly

one man tells another

"Borrow with confidence from HFC"

More Canadians recommend Household Finance than any other consumer finance company because they have found that HFC puts forth a special effort to help them solve their money problems. Whether they desire advice or a cash loan, HFC's highly trained staff is ready to serve them. If a loan is needed for a good purpose, they may borrow up to \$1000 in one day, with up to 24 months to repay. So, if you have money problems, visit HFC—the first and most recommended in its field.

SAMPLE TABLE		
CASH YOU RECEIVE	MONTHLY PAYMENTS	NUMBER OF MONTHS
\$105.75	\$10.00	12
308.38	24.00	18
510.68	37.00	24
756.56	40.00	24

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CHARLOTTETOWN, P.E.I.

Medically Speaking

By Herman N. Sandesen, M. D.

HELP KIDS TO REALIZE WHAT CHRISTMAS MEANS

If there are young children in your home anxiously awaiting the visit of Santa Claus this evening, there is something I wish you would do.

Even if Santa is the one who traditionally decorates the tree on Christmas Eve, I suggest you change the scheme of things to let the older youngsters help Mom and Dad trim the tree tonight.

And while the family is doing the decorating, or maybe after it is finished, sing some carols.

RELIGIOUS SIGNIFICANCE
Take time, too, to explain the religious significance of this hallowed day.

Let even your tiny tots prepare and wrap the presents they are giving to each other.

Suggest that they leave Christmas cards for the milkman and let them pick out the cards they want to give him. Better still, let them make their own cards.

Now I know all this means a pretty hectic Christmas Eve for your youngsters. But there's a purpose behind my proposition. The youngsters will realize that there is more to Christmas than just waiting for jolly old gent in a red suit whom they never see.

This will help to prepare them for the disillusionment that all children suffer to some extent as they grow older and learn more about good old St. Nicholas.

I don't want to tire the children unnecessarily. If one or two of the suggestions I've given you take up the entire evening, all right.

You can repeat them and some of the others next year during the days preceding Christmas. Eventually, your youngster will be glad you did. You will be, too.

QUESTION AND ANSWER

Q.B.: Is there any danger from a blood transfusion?

Answer: Transfusions can cause serious illness if the blood is improperly matched. This rarely occurs, however, because of modern methods of typing and testing the blood.

NOTES BY THE WAY

It's funny how many other things, rather than criminals are blamed for crime waves.—London Free Press.

There are two kinds of kids—your own and the terrible ones who live next door.—London Free Press.

A newspaper editor, with some space to fill, set up the Ten Commandments and ran them without editorial comment. The next day he got a letter from a subscriber which said: "Cancel my subscription; you're getting too personal."—Montreal Star

Some people should get this information: The Recording Angel hasn't taken a vacation. The world's moral accounting department continues in business all year round, and all day round the clock, without even a coffee break.—Calgary Albertan.

DO YOU KNOW THE ANSWER TO THIS \$40 QUESTION?

How does the universal old age pension at 70 affect your retirement plan?

The main consideration quickly realized by most people is that something must be done about the years between normal retirement age and age 70 when the Government Pension is payable.

The Great-West Life has the answer to this problem—a special new "Bridge the Gap" pension plan to enable you to enjoy adequate income beginning at the more desirable age of 60 or 65.

Without obligation you can find out how easy it is to tie in your personal plans with the new Government Pension at 70.

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YOUR FUTURE IS OUR BUSINESS TO-DAY!

MERRY CHRISTMAS

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NOEL

Here's wishing you a joyous and glorious Christmas time!

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May your Christmas be abundant in joy, peace and every happiness!

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