

THE GUARDIAN

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CIRCULATION "Covers Prince Edward Island like the dew" "The strongest memory is weaker than the weakest ink."

CHARLOTTETOWN, SATURDAY, FEB. 27, 1954

A New Version

The 23rd Psalm is one of the most popular pieces of literature in the English language. Countless numbers of men and women in the Christian-Hebraic tradition have found comfort in it; multitudes of children have learned it by rote.

"The Great Father above a Shepherd Chief is. I am His, and with Him I want not. He throws to me a rope, and the name of the rope is Love, and He draws me to where the grass is green, and the water not dangerous; and I eat and lie down and am satisfied.

"Sometimes He makes the love-rope into a whip, but afterwards He gives me a staff to lean on. He spreads a table before me with all kinds of foods. He puts His hand on my head, and all the tired is gone. My cup He fills until it runs over.

Construction Boom Predicted

While unemployment presents a serious problem at present, not only in this Province but throughout Canada, it is encouraging to note that the year 1954 promises to be the biggest ever in the Canadian construction industry.

That, notes the Financial Post, is significant news for every person in Canada because construction is a basic, job producing industry. Two-thirds of all the new capital investment in Canada goes directly into construction.

Two or three million dollars spent on a brand new industrial plant is only the beginning of new and permanent business. After the contractor and his workers move on, in comes new machinery and a steady flow of raw materials.

Live-Wire Marketing

There has just been unveiled for use in the United States a new method of packaging pre-stuffed frozen poultry in a plastic bag, reports the Wall Street Journal.

"That the nation's 2,000-odd poultry processors have found ways of pleasing the housewife's desire for conveniently-prepared food," adds the Journal, "is abundantly clear from a look at consumption figures.

"Talk to poultry processors at the 25th annual fact-finding conference of the Institute of American Poultry Industries, and you'll hear all sorts of stories of what doing more of the housewife's work has meant in increased sales.

to make headway. "Years ago, after buying chickens, turkeys, ducks and geese from farmers, processors did nothing more than kill and bleed them, strip off feathers and ship the birds to market as 'New York dressed.'

The Gloomy Dean

"We are approaching another dark age," the Very Rev. William Ralph Inge declared in 1930 and indeed he was not far from the truth. It was similar unpleasant comments in his earlier years that earned Dean Inge of St. Paul's Cathedral the sobriquet of "The Gloomy Dean".

The late Dean was long an outstanding figure in the Anglican Church and indeed the English speaking world. In theology he was what might be termed modern, holding miracles and many other adjuncts of religion very cheap but deeply concerned about the mystical aspects of Christianity.

He was a profound classical scholar, taking many prizes throughout his educational career and holding important teaching posts including those of Paddock Lecturer, New York 1906, and Lyman Beecher, Yale 1925. His many books show his scholarship and his keen interest in affairs of the day.

Today the optimist is regarded as being the good citizen and the pessimist considered more or less responsible for the evils which he sees on the horizon. It may be, however, that mankind will some day no longer regard the habit of sticking one's head in the sand as a sign of superior citizenship.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Tomorrow, Quinquagesima, the Sunday before Lent.

Paardeberg, 1900. General Cronje, whose army was entrenched in the river bed, surrendered.

Parliament has now approved a bill authorizing participation by this country in the 10-nations commission to study conservation of Atlantic fisheries. The commission sits in Halifax and will certainly have an important bearing on the continued prosperity of the industry.

The request of the Oyster Growers of Prince Edward Island that the legal minimum size for choice and fancy grades be reduced a half inch to three inches should be almost automatically put into effect. They are, after all, sea farmers rather than fishermen and considerations of conservation of a natural resource do not apply.

The further extension of competitive freight rates on potatoes to April 14th is most satisfactory. Farmers would not, of course, receive less than the fixed price available through the Potato Board, but if there is any possibility of bettering that price the lower freight rates will help in doing so.

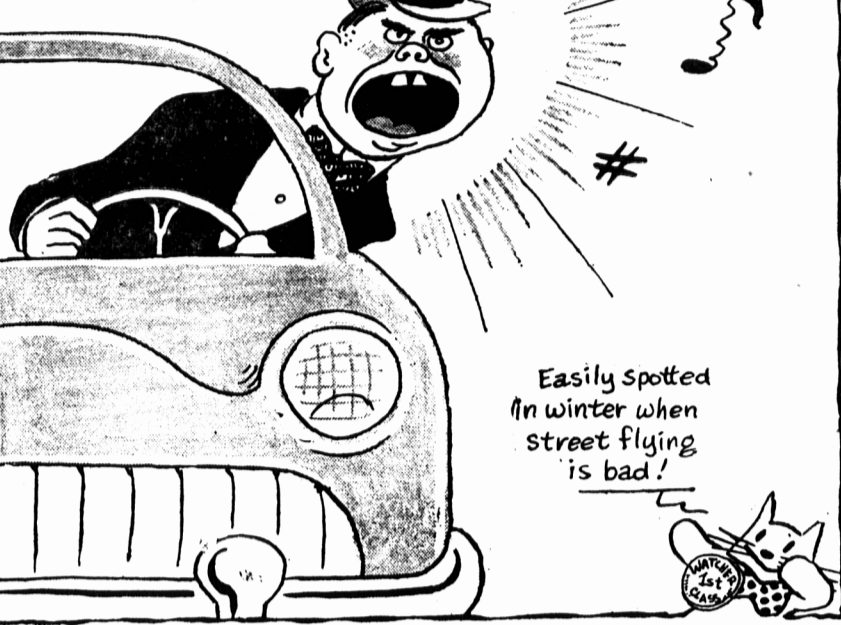
The long thaw is encouraging more drivers to bring out their cars. It will be some time, however, before streets are really dry again and in the meantime very slow speeds are essential to avoid splashing pedestrians. Lack of courtesy is regarded as a chief cause of accidents and a driver who splashes all and sundry is the kind of driver who has more serious accidents.

Attention is called to the important address delivered before the Agricultural Council this week by Mr. W. R. Shaw, Deputy Minister of Agriculture, which appears in today's issue. It challenges serious consideration on the part of all interested in our farm problems, including our legislative members who will be meeting shortly and who will find much food for thought and discussion in the facts and figures presented.

The Boers defeated the British at Majuba Hill this date 1881. General Colley was killed and about half his command lost. It had been hoped that a confederation similar to that of Canada would solve the many problems of the British colonies and the Dutch republics but the proposal was rejected in the Volksraad. In spite of this the Transvaal was annexed by the British in 1877 because of financial difficulties and wars with the natives. This in turn led to open hostilities. After Majuba Hill the Transvaal was granted self government.

Native Birds

"#317. REDEYED RUFFLED GROUSER, of the Car-bird family, delights in intimidating the unobtrusive Bland-eyed Car-bird; often identified by his peculiar call, a series of hoarse challenging whoops."



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.

NO U. S. POTATO ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Sir, I am enclosing you a copy of the famous Tabb Potato Service report, which if printed in part might be of great value to the potato farmers of this Province, as it would bring to light the conditions and how they are being handled by the American potato farmers.

On the best authority in this country it is felt that no further shipments to amount to anything, which are federally subsidized, will enter United States, duty or no duty, and should we lose our American market for seed we might very well find ourselves in a ruinous position.

All of our trouble this year lies in or could be traced to over production. If there is not a 25 to 25 per cent reduction in acreage in the Maritimes it will be just too bad.

I am, Sir, etc. RUSSEL T. HAMILL. Albany, P. E. I.

The Tabb report enclosed contains, with editorial comment, and figures, the following statement issued on Tuesday, Feb. 16, by U. S. Secretary of Agriculture Benson: "The U. S. Department of Agriculture announced today that no assistance program will be undertaken for the potato industry now. Potatoes are not eligible for price support, but Public Law 290 approved by the President January 30, 1954, authorizes the use of Section 32 funds from customs receipts for providing limited assistance to the potato industry."

"A group of potato industry representatives met in Washington last week at the request of the Secretary to evaluate the problem and offer advice and suggestions. They emphasized the unfavorable economic position of the potato growers, but expressed fear of increased 1954 crop potato planting if assistance were made available now. The need for an immediate decision by the Department was stressed as the season is far advanced. Potato industry representatives also pointed to the importance of treating all potato producing areas equitably if any assistance program were undertaken. After analyzing the problem confronting potato producers the Department concluded that the time is too short and the problem too big to accomplish any real benefits with a Section 32 program under present conditions in the potato industry."

"In making the announcement, Secretary Benson said, 'The serious economic situation facing potato growers today is fully recognized. Low potato prices coupled with high production costs built up during recent years make an extremely difficult potato problem. However, any marketing aid that might come from use of Section 32 funds at this time would be a case of 'too little and too late.'"

"Department officials expressed concern over rumors that the new legislation authorizing use of Sections 32 funds for potatoes had been accepted by many growers as an indication that the Department soon would be purchasing potatoes on a wide scale. It was emphasized that potatoes are not eligible for price support and there is no thought of returning to potato price support such as was available through the 1950 crop. It was pointed out that the current potato surplus and low prices are a direct result of over-plantings, despite acreage guides and additional warnings by the Secretary."

The Age Old Story

Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all the host of them. . . . But there went up a mist from the earth, and watered the whole face of the ground. And the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul.

Department. It was also pointed out that compliance with the guides program does not commit the Department to provide assistance for any commodity or area.

"By providing farmers with necessary information, the Department expects that acreage can be adjusted so as to bring supplies in balance with demand and avoid marketing difficulties. Before planting time, potato growers should take precautionary measures to assure themselves of available marketing outlets for their production."

(In commenting on the above statement the Tabb Service says that while many growers and dealers are disappointed with the Government decision to refrain from any assistance, a surprisingly large number are in favour of the decision. "It's hard," it adds, "for the growers to take, but at the same time they feel that it takes a strong dose of medicine to cure their ills, and what's most important now is to plan for next year. The old potato deal hasn't much more to go and they might just as well make the best of the present situation, with the hope that next year's acreage will be reduced sharply so that production will get in line with consumption.")

UNSKILLED LABOR RATES

Sir,—In a news report of the monthly meeting of the local branch of the Canadian Legion I was pleased to note that the unemployment situation came in for considerable discussion. It is true that local contractors do not always pay the prevailing rate and some effort should be made to see that they do so. Our unskilled labor is the lowest paid in Canada and our City Council are the only ones who can correct this. One statement made by a member is not correct and is unfair to the staff of the Unemployment Insurance Commission here, as to advising outside contractors what rate of wages to pay labor. As a labor official here I can truly state that the staff of the U. I. C. could not and would not try to set wages on any job. I have had considerable dealings with this staff and I know how they feel about wages here. Those outside contractors know the prevailing rate in Charlottetown and every other city in Canada before they even bid on a contract. Unskilled labor were organized here the prevailing rate would be their scale of wage, otherwise the prevailing rate is whatever the City pays. In correcting

Old Charlottetown

(And P. E. I.)

GLEBE LANDS SOLD

The sale of the Glebe and School Lands in Queen's County took place at Charlottetown on Wednesday last. There are 23 Townships in this County, on each of which a tract of 130 acres was reserved for glebes and schools, all which, under a recent Act, have been sold for the benefit of general education. Each lot was of course put up separately, and the prices were as follows, in Prince Edward Island currency:

- Township 20, £50; Township 21, £44; Township 22, £60; Township 23, £103; Township 24, £69; Township 25, £69; Township 26, £189; Township 27, £111; Township 28, £67; Township 29, £75; Township 30, £104; Township 31, £100; Township 32, £36; Township 33, £48; Township 34, £48; Township 35, £37; Township 36, £48; Township 37, £76; Township 38, £151; Township 39, £16; Township 40, £33; Township 41, £100; Township 42, £58; Township 43, £65; Township 44, £26; Township 45, £56; Township 46, £32. Total £1,720.

"The prices brought at this sale are not to be considered as a criteria of the value of the land in the respective Townships as in some cases the very best was selected, and in others the very worst. That on Township 30, which brought the highest price, was an excellent tract of land, of easy access, and enjoying the advantage of a sea front on the Gulf shore. —Royal Gazette, Nov. 1, 1836

HISTORIC POST

Lower Fort Garry, Hudson's Bay Company post on the Red river in Manitoba, was built with stone walls in 1831-33.

That statement I do so because it causes discontent among our working men and places the staff of our local U. I. C. office in a very bad light; and I do know that if they had anything to do with wages our unskilled labor would be much better off. And I believe that the executive of the Legion will agree with that.

I am, Sir, etc. LEMUEL T. RUSH. President. Laborers Protective Union.

COMPLETE VISUAL REFRACTION AND ANALYSIS G. F. HUTCHESON & SON Optometrists 53 Grafton Street

TRAFFIC SAFETY

While many accidents are the result of drunken drivers—it has been established by driver education consultants that the average motorist unconsciously and habitually makes certain errors in driving, and that these errors are the cause of nearly all traffic accidents.

Every effort should be made by all drivers, to reduce the terrific and needless loss of life and injury caused by Highway Traffic.

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The Passing Scene

By Observer WASH-ROOMS, DOLLARS, LIQUOR

The Senate Tourist Traffic Committee is making its annual inquiry into various angles of the tourist business; and it is being helped along by officials of the Canadian Tourist Association.

Some of the comments and suggestions which have been made thus far are interesting. One Senator, feeling no doubt that little things are important, came up with the observation that "wash-rooms in many service stations are an outrage." He might have gone a little further and included a good many railway stations and not a few eating places in his indictment. The worst thing about this situation, where it exists, is that apparently very little official attention is devoted to it.

There should be some way for provincial governments to enact legislation covering this important matter of public health and proper conditions of inspection. This is the general practice in most of the American States; on the whole it seems to work out all right. Some kind of licensing, especially in eating places, would be helpful; a government certificate of approval is always an incentive. Care should be taken, of course, to see that a place that has been certified as satisfactory is, in fact, entitled to the recognition. Such a policy might possibly, though by no means certainly, bring in a few extra American dollars during the summer months. It would not, however, heighten Canadian prestige one jot or tittle; it might even lessen it considerably.

Americans generally have a great deal of respect for a strong national currency, whether it be their own or some other country's. They themselves would never take less for their dollar than it is worth. When a policy means a loss of more than the Canadian they exacted the tribute to the last farthing; in many places in the United States at that time Canadian money was not accepted on any terms.

Now that things have changed a little, at least temporarily, they would be unable to understand why Canadians should not take advantage of their good position. Such magnanimity, if that's the right name for it, they would regard as "toadyism" which tops the list of all American objects of scorn. No country has anything to gain from an apologetic attitude towards the strength of its currency. Better, far better, that tourist operators should lower their rates slightly than beg pardon for the strength of the nation's dollar.

Even more puerile is the inference which came out in the Senate Inquiry that Canadian liquor laws could very well be relaxed for the benefit of American tourists. It may be that some of the provincial laws dealing with the sale and distribution of liquor—perhaps all of them—need revision; but surely such revision, if any be indicated, should be in the interest of Canadians, not Americans.

The notion that liquor attracts tourists is foolish; and it is nonsense to suppose that any large number of Americans would stay away from Canada just because liquor is not sold in the drug stores or served in every hotel dining room. I doubt very much that one prospective visitor in ten thousand gives liquor so much as a thought when he is considering whether or not he should journey into Canada. In fact, it isn't unlikely that the strangeness (to Americans) of most of our provincial liquor laws is an attraction rather than a deterrent.

Most Americans are looking for "something different" when they go touring; the better class ones would be anything but flattered to hear that Canadians were going out of their way to entice them with strong drink which, in most American cities, can be had just by going across the street. The things they really expect are good and well-cooked Canadian food, clean and sanitary accommodations, friendly (not fusties) welcome, and prices for services which are not based on the silly notion that all Americans have money to waste. (The truth probably is that 99 per cent of the Americans who spend two weeks in Canada during the summer spend the other fifty weeks in saving up for the trip, a few dollars at a time.)

Given these things, no American tourist worth having will resent the strength of the Canadian dollar or grumble because liquor is not served at every meal.

When Burbadge played, the stage was bare. Of found and temple found and stair; Two backwards eked a battle out. Two supers made a rabble-roust. The Throne of Denmark was a chair!

And yet, no less, the audience they Thrilled, through all changes of Despair, Anger, Fear, Delight, and Doubt. When Burbadge played!

This is the Actor's gift — to share All moods, all passions, not to care One whit for scene, so he without Can lead men's minds the round about. Stirred us of old those hearts were. When Burbadge played!

—Austin Dobson (1840—1921)

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The Poet's Corner

WHEN BURBADGE PLAYED

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