

THE GUARDIAN

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President and Associate Editor, Ian A. Burnett, Associate Editor, Frank Walker.

"The Strongest Memory is Weaker Than the Weakest Ink"

CHARLOTTETOWN, SATURDAY, NOV. 24, 1951

Gulf Fishing Scheme Recalled

In the description of the new type of dragger proposed for this Province it was intimated that these vessels might be used profitably in seining operations as well. This method might indeed have great possibilities with modern equipment and facilities. American fishing fleets were engaged many years ago in this industry all along the Gulf shores. They came through the Gut of Canso and proceeded along the north shore of Prince Edward Island, by the coasts off the Bay of Chaleur, Gaspé, and up the straits to Belle Isle, along the coast of Labrador, a distance of some 1,000 to 1,500 miles from their home ports. Annually as many as 2,000 sail of American shipping was employed in exploiting our fishery resources by this means, and big profits were made.

So important was Prince Edward Island to the industry that in the year 1827—a century and a quarter ago—a scheme was proposed in a London newspaper for making this Province the principal station for a steam-powered English seining fleet. It was proposed to build the vessels here, with Island lumber, of from 300 to 400 tons burden, at a cost calculated at from £6 to £7 British per ton measurement, including fittings "of the best American materials."

The article stressed "the great accommodation such vessels would afford on deck for catching, cleaning and splitting the fish, and saving the oil—their capacious stowage below—their easy draft of water—the facility with which they could be moved from one fishing station to another," etc.

The boats could be used not only for cod fishing, but in the herring and mackerel fisheries as well, "as their cargoes might be properly prepared, cured and stowed in bulk in their holds, by their crews, who would receive from the small boats, and then carried to Halifax in a few hours, there barrelled, and shipped for the West India and other markets." Fuel, it was pointed out, could be obtained from the Pictou Mines at from 12 to 15 shillings per ton. "Experienced hands could be procured easily from Newfoundland to superintend and assist in the fishery, and a few men from the United States might be employed to instruct."

A company to carry forward such objects, it was suggested, should have a capital of at least £30,000, "but one-fourth of this sum might be sufficient for a partial trial—say one steam-boat, with the necessary supplies of salt, seines, etc., provisions and supplies for the men, and other requisites, in temporary buildings on shore for necessary accommodation."

The proposals, which appeared in the London Mercury of Aug. 25, 1827, emphasized that Prince Edward Island "abounds with fine harbours, and an ample supply of wood for shipbuilding, and for all other purposes connected with the fisheries, and the shores are admirably fitted for all necessary buildings and appendages for drying the fish. It is completely in the vicinity of all the fishing grounds named, Labrador, the most distant, being only from 100 to 150 leagues."

This scheme failed to materialize. It was just another case of opportunity knocking at the door, and then passing by. The new programme of dragger operations, still in its infancy, may ultimately result in no less far-reaching consequences. If so, it is to be hoped that our Island fishermen will be the chief beneficiaries, and not any outside speculators. Our sea resources are as great as ever they were. We should be able now to develop them on a scale commensurate with their importance.

R. C. M. P.

To a great many people who have never visited this country, Canada and the Royal Canadian Mounted Police are synonymous. The mention of Canada or Canadian brings up the picture of scarlet coated constables guarding our national capital, taking law and civilization to isolated posts far within the Arctic Circle, patrolling the United States border, excelling in the musical ride, travelling by air, land and sea throughout almost all of this great land and upholding a tradition of courage, resource, discipline and devotion to duty.

To be sure, such an image of the Canadian nation lacks a great deal of detail. It would be most desirable to have others

know more about us, how we think and live. But if the picture must be simplified, we may consider ourselves fortunate indeed that it is as precise, colourful and wholly admirable as in fact it is.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Tomorrow, the 27th Sunday after Trinity.

The Halifax Chronicle-Herald is now 5c per copy here, and it has discontinued its Island page.

The House of Commons has passed the new Bank Amendment Bill. It means in future banks will open only five days a week.

In a 90 member House as in Ontario, a 10 member opposition will not tend to the best government. The Liberals have been returned as the loyal opposition, but with only seven members.

Tasmania, island and state off the south coast of Australia, was discovered by the Dutch explorer Tasman this date 1642, although it was thought to form part of Australia until 1798. Tasman also discovered New Zealand, which he named Staaten Land.

For many years Mr. Henry Smith and the Brick Church (now Trinity) were synonymous. He loved every brick in the building, and its anniversary services he featured as only could one who dearly loved the sanctuary. Tomorrow, there will be a fitting memorial there.

Defence Minister Claxton's chances of succeeding to be Prime Minister have gone down considerably due to his faux pas in telling tales out of school. He had no right disclosing to all and sundry the intention of the Government regarding European air bases without taking into his confidence, for approval, the Canadian parliament.

The auxiliary services, Salvation Army, K. of C., Y.M.C.A. and the others, are understandably put out that no provision is made for permitting them to offer their services in providing social and other facilities for troops in Korea. The Army may be able to provide equally good facilities but what is needed most is the opportunity to get away from the Army for a while.

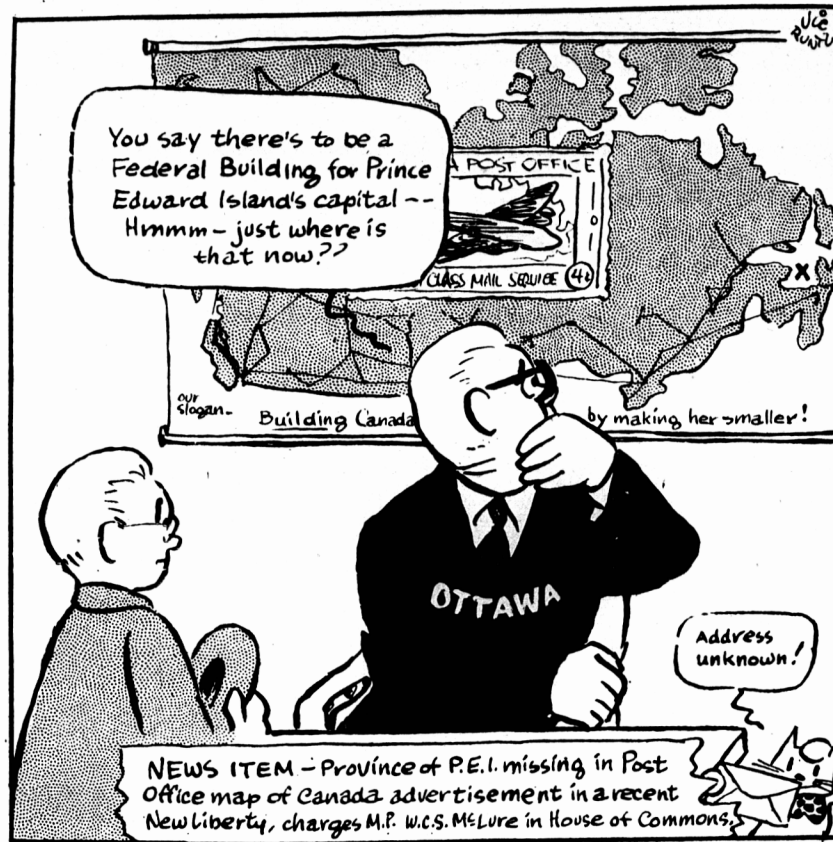
Everyone will agree with the suggestion of the Hon. Mr. Baker at the Rural Beautification gathering, that attention should be directed to the internal improvement of the homes as well as the external. Also there should be general approval to the suggestion of the advisability of planting trees along the roadsides. They are an undoubted attraction, provided they are not too close to the thoroughfare.

The new varieties of foxes and mink shown at the Fair this week, demonstrate that our fur breeders are men with vision, not satisfied merely with the present dollar, but looking forward to an industry as great, if not greater, than the old silver fox days, when money was not made but gambled in it. The number of new ranchers added to the old ones ensures a continuance of the industry along modern lines.

The new recruiting office being opened in Summerside by the R. C. A. F. should prove a decided advantage to the Service. Apart from mobile units operating at intervals recruiting has been conducted at the air station at St. Eleanors. To the youthful prospective recruit that great establishment may have been a bit overwhelming and it should be much easier to cope with only the recruiting staff in the more or less familiar surroundings of a town office.

There is a world of difference between the sweet sophistication of the American Andrews Sisters and the simple sincerity of a Scots' Minister singing a Gaelic air (says a United Church publication), but coincidence—and appreciation of a good song—have brought these two extremes closer together. About two years ago the Rev. Somerled Macmillan, of Dennistoun United Free Church, Glasgow, had 16 songs published in a book which he called "Peat Reek". Sir Hugh Robertson, conductor of the Glasgow Orpheus Choir, wrote a foreword to it and several of the songs, which have English as well as Gaelic words, were broadcast. Mr. Macmillan wearing his tartan was hailed in the street in Crieff, Perthshire, by one of the Andrews Sisters' representatives who asked him if he would meet the sisters and explain to them the intricacies of his clan. When he had answered their questions Mr. Macmillan offered to sing a Gaelic song. The sisters were enraptured and when they heard he was the author they took a 60 days' option on his book. If his Gaelic folk songs sell in the U. S. A. Mr. Macmillan will benefit substantially as a result of this chance meeting.

Lost Horizons



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.

SUNDAY READING

Sir,— Nearly every one agrees that something is wrong with the world. Some say there is something wrong with the church, and no doubt many feel something is wrong about it, even if they say nothing about it, it seems strange that the world, the church and the individual still keeps on with an unspun need, when the source of supply is so near. Dr. Stanley Jones went as a missionary to India. He worked at first among the low caste Indians where he no doubt did much good, but finally the more wealthy upper class people invited him to sound table conferences that they might hear his message.

These educated Hindus, Brahmins, Moslems and so forth soon gave him to understand that they did not want the Western type of Christianity such as we have here. They valued some good things that were in their own religions, which made America where Jones came from look shabby with its slums and extreme wealth, its race treatment and prejudice, its divorce statistics, its political corruption, its protected vice, its exploitation of Eastern countries for "filthy lucre's" sake, its materialism in general, as well as a long list of evils that even St. Paul would be at a loss to describe. So finding, that in many of those faiths the devotees were always searching for God, but none seeming to find Him, he decided that he would offer them nothing for forgiveness, when he then would begin to eat. As Jones showed them the beauty of our Savior's character, they exclaimed—"that is what Ghandi is like." May be that Ghandi is His "Incarnation." They seemed more interested in Christ as they forgot the way in which we represent Him in this country. And many agreed with Jones, that it was the Christ of the "Incarnation" that they needed. It is told of one Indian convert, that when he was interviewed by a European college professor after this manner, the professor being an atheist—What have you discovered in Christianity that is not in your own religion? replied—I have found Christ. Yes, yes, the professor said but what principal or doctrine is there in it that was not in your own ancient beliefs, replied again—"Just Christ."

Would it be in this, that we now can put our finger on the root cause of our inefficiency, our discouragement, our dependency, our lust for harmful things, our misunderstandings, our multiplying of religious sects, when we should be full of hilarity, hope and faith in God and man. The need of India is our need too. We need Christ in our each and every heart, home and church.

I am, Sir, etc. A. T. MACKENZIE Kensington, P. E. I.

The Age-Old Story

Jesus cried and said, He that believeth on me, believeth not on me, but on him that sent me. And he that seeth me seeth him that sent me. I am come a light into the world, that whosoever be-

Old Charlottetown

(And P. E. I.) COALS OR NO COALS?

From an editorial in The Islander, April 19, 1950: "It appears to us that a great deal of aimless ridicule has been heaped upon the Solicitor General of Nova Scotia (Hon. Alexander McDougall, of Antigonish), for having said that 'Prince Edward Island may be called a bed of Coals'. And why not? Surely not in deference to the opinion of Dr. Gesner, who, having estimated the expense of boring at about eight or ten times its real cost, in order to bag £200 for doing nothing, he supposed, could not, after his survey, decently lend to that mode of investigation the light of his countenance. But the manager of the Pictou Mines, a better authority than the Doctor, expresses an opinion identical with that of the Solicitor General, that this Island does indeed overlie 'a bed of Coals'."

"As far as we can remember, Gesner's Report carefully avoids stating whether he believes the rock of this Island to belong to the old or new red sandstone formation—a most important point—because if it belong to the old the Coal veins around us must all either be bounded, or 'crop out' before they reach this Island; but if it be the new, and the seams extend so far, they must necessarily be underneath, because the new red sandstone is a more recent formation than the Coal."

"We have indeed been told that Gesner said privately, that he supposed it to belong to the new, until he discovered a bit of fossiliferous coral, which indicated the rock to be of the old red sandstone, and, therefore, it was unnecessary for him to be particular in his search for Coal, as but 'Christ and Him crucified.' This Christ could fill the want in the philosophy. Dr. Jones discovered also that Mahatma Ghandi had taught India much thro his practice of non-resistance of evil, and his 'vicarious' suffering. This latter was his habit of refusing to eat while his pupils that he taught lived in sin. They were thus constrained to come to him confessing their wrong and praying for forgiveness, when he then would begin to eat. As Jones showed them the beauty of our Savior's character, they exclaimed—"that is what Ghandi is like." May be that Ghandi is His "Incarnation." They seemed more interested in Christ as they forgot the way in which we represent Him in this country. And many agreed with Jones, that it was the Christ of the "Incarnation" that they needed. It is told of one Indian convert, that when he was interviewed by a European college professor after this manner, the professor being an atheist—What have you discovered in Christianity that is not in your own religion? replied—I have found Christ. Yes, yes, the professor said but what principal or doctrine is there in it that was not in your own ancient beliefs, replied again—"Just Christ."

"From indications along the opposite shores of the Straits, it is possible that the Coal fields extend not only below this Island, but far into the Gulf; but, if not, how otherwise could the Coal have been packed in its present position?" In that distant geological era, when the atmosphere, surcharged with heat, moisture and carbonic acid, produced a magnificence of vegetation now unknown, and almost inconceivable, did the mighty river which conveyed that vegetation to where we now find it preserved, in the form of Coal and flowing in a meridional course, take an acute bend round the place now occupied by Prince

The Poet's Corner

THE GREAT BREATH

Its edges foamed with amethyst and rose, Withers once more the old blue flower of day; There where the ether like a diamond glows Its petals fade away. A shadowy tumult stirs the dusky air; Sparkle the delicate dews, the dinging snows: The great deep thrills, for through it everywhere The breath of Beauty blows. I saw how all the trembling ages past, Moulded to her by deep and deeper breath, Nearer to the hour when Beauty breathes her last And knows herself in death. —George William Russell.

Sign Of Discomfiture

(The Times, London) "It all depends what you mean." The cunning formula trips off the tongue more easily than ever in these days of political tension. At first sight it would seem to exert an altogether healthy influence on the direction of an argument, restraining the wilder elements in the groups, encouraging the genuine seekers after truth, and holding out hopes of enlightenment to the middle-headed. Doctors of philosophy and other practitioners of lucid thought find it indispensable to the conduct of discussion, for even in that rarefied atmosphere, one word can have a variety of implications. The phrase, in fact, perfectly legitimate, and yet, for some strange reason it hardly ever seems to ring true.

Perhaps the reason is a natural distaste for definitions. "I hate definitions," was Mrs. Felix Lorraine's reply when asked by Vivian Grey what meaning she attached to that important monosyllable "friend." The dinner guest, flattered to have his opinion sought on the exact meaning of a simple word, finds himself, more often than not, at a complete loss to define it; yet, contrary to the impression he is creating, he knows perfectly well what it means, and he has used it before and will use it again in its true sense.

A different reason for mistrust is that when the inquiry is directed against ourselves our opponent may be employing it as a defensive measure, behind which he has organized forces of his mind and given time to regroup. The interpretation, it may be suspected, is being subtly disguised.

Understanding, after all, outstrips definition, and the meaning we convey depends not so much on an analysis of each word as on the general sense. Even in discussion of politics, where the outlines of truth are apt to get a little ragged, it is generally pretty clear what the other fellow is getting at. The appeal for a definition needs watching. It may mean that we are up against a keener intellect; but, if we are to remain calm, Edward Island, such as no rivers of similar magnitude describe the present day? Or flowing on a parallel of latitude, with this place exactly in its course, did it, for unknown ages, surround us with the most enormous riffs of drift timber, and yet, as a charmed spot, refuse to accumulate any here? "In truth, the idea that we are beyond the circuits of the Coal formation has been much too readily adopted; and a sum equal to that inconsiderately paid to Dr. Gesner, could hardly be better expended, whether with geological or economical views, than in piercing the sandstone rock, and determining the nature of the strata underneath."

Lessons From Europe In Community Progress

By Leo P. McIsaac Part Two (continued) (All Rights Reserved)

LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS

In our present cooperative structure in the Maritimes, too much depends on one person, the manager. He may be efficient, or he may not. If he is not doing a top-notch job, directors often hesitate to check him up and release him. In such cases of inefficiency we have found the best directors (both in local and central organizations) would rather resign than take a chance on offending someone or being blamed for being too officious. Therefore, managers stay in the organization whether they are efficient or not. Directors, generally speaking, because they are not educated in the field of economics, do not direct; therefore, in too many cases decisions on policy seem to be made by the managers.

A great foundation, numbering now about 220 co-operative retail outlets, has been laid in the Maritime Provinces. There are some very sound and progressive co-operative centers. A comparison, however, with cooperative practice in Europe clearly indicates the advisability of certain revisions. By comparison the cooperative stores, warehouses, etc., in Europe are considerably more advanced and practicable than those found in the Maritime Provinces. With the exception of a few top-notch organizations which, again, are going well primarily because of efficient managers and a large volume of business, our rural co-operatives are often disordered, the staff is often untrained, and inefficiency and lack of planning are apparent to both members and visitors. Some of the local dairies in the Maritimes would almost certainly lose their licenses if they were operating under the British Milk Marketing Board.

Experience has shown that there are at least two methods of remedying this short-coming while assuring business success. The first method is found mainly in private owner-operated business where initiative, efficiency, courtesy, and cleanliness are regarded as the watchwords of success. The second method is applicable either in private or cooperatively-owned business, that is, the establishment of clearly defined authority and responsibility and insistence on their observance.

It has been proven that the fear of insecurity and the desire for advancement is a Christian, human and workable incentive. Those features of incentive and authority can be incorporated into our cooperatives while control is left with the people. The establishment of properly delegated authority and responsibility, perhaps the most important of our needs, can be made use of in a variety of ways. It finds a ready application in the marketing board system, with its qualified officials to set the pace and to issue or cancel licenses as necessity demanded. Another application may be found in the role of regional supervisor of cooperative banks, or of local stores, with authority to enforce certain standards.

A third and very practicable application is used in the European countries with their cooperative system of local branches and committees in which the central store does the buying, the marketing, accounting and actual supervising. A fourth possible method which is working successfully in western Canada is that in which the local cooperative delegated the responsibility of management, accounting and supervision to the wholesale on a contract basis, which contract can be cancelled on a six months' notice by either party.

To look at the actual business progress of cooperatives on the Island, we shall take our two oldest, and perhaps most successful as illustrations. In 1950 the combined membership of these two cooperatives was 838. Since they began in the late 30's the total amount of reserves and rebates, either paid out or allocated to members' accounts, amounts to \$96,300.00. This is a substantial sum; with the present membership it amounts to about \$117 each. In other words, allowing for small membership and difficult times until 1940, the average savings for the last ten years

we should do well to bear in mind that it may equally well be the first sign of our opponent's discomfiture. (To be continued)

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