

THE GUARDIAN

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Farm Ownership

That farm ownership is a goal which is not always easy to achieve is indicated in a report in The Economic Annalist published by the Federal Department of Agriculture. Difficulties seem to be increasing for the prospective owner with only moderate means. Land prices are high in this country at present and in order to derive full advantage from the use of modern machinery and equipment, he must buy a farm larger than would have been necessary some fifteen or twenty years ago. Thus the prospective purchaser of today requires a larger amount of capital than the purchaser of one or two decades ago if he is to have a farm business of a scale and type that will give him reasonable financial returns.

On the other hand, farm income has witnessed an almost continuous increase during the last ten or twelve years. Government farm loan agencies make credit available to farm purchasers at reasonable interest rates on long-term repayment plans. Social legislation such as old age pensions and family allowances also provide a form of assistance to prospective farm owners.

A survey of the general pattern of accession to farm ownership in Quebec indicates that it does not differ very much from that in other parts of Eastern Canada. The ways young people become farm owners have not changed very much during the past fifty years, although an increasing number have borrowed from government sources. The highest proportion of young people remain and work on their parents' farm for several years as unpaid workers and when the time comes for them to make the choice of a career several factors must be considered.

Amongst these factors, one may mention: the number of children in the family, particularly the number of sons, their individual preferences for a given occupation, the financial resources of the parents and of the prospective farm owner, and the availability of suitable farms in the vicinity. For most young farmers, the acquiring of a farm is not easy. The process of ownership is a family affair which requires a great deal of co-operation, hard work, thriftiness and self denial from both parents and children.

The Late Mr. Spencer

The late Mr. F. G. Spencer's name was a household word in this city and Province, due to his long association with the motion picture industry here and throughout the Maritimes, and to the many personal contacts he had made among our citizens. One of the most enterprising and successful men in his business, he was also extremely friendly, and enjoyed meeting people and discussing local affairs on his frequent visits to Charlottetown and other centres. He prided himself on the high standing enjoyed by the Spencer theatres and took a keen personal interest in the welfare of every member of his staff. In his own home city of Saint John he was prominent in community activities, in church work and humanitarian projects, contributing generously not only of his wealth but of his time and organizing ability as well.

Perhaps the trait which most distinguished Mr. Spencer was his unfailing courtesy. He had the self-effacing qualities of a true gentleman, and while he held strong opinions on moral and political issues he was always tolerant of the views of others. He had travelled extensively, had read and studied widely, and had come in contact with nearly all the outstanding personalities of his day and generation. His own personality was mellowed by these experiences, which extended well over half a century and included a distinguished career as a concert impresario before the advent of motion pictures in which he pioneered so successfully.

Mr. Pearson's New Role

The United Nations General Assembly in New York voted for the man rather than the country, says the Ottawa Citizen, when it elected Hon. L. B. Pearson, Canada's Minister for External Affairs, to the U. N. presidency. The candidate himself has always been the paramount factor in such elections, though in practice the office has generally gone to a representative of one of the smaller countries. But if the vote was essentially for Mr. Pearson, Can-

ada was honored also. As chairman of the assembly, Mr. Pearson cannot escape acting for this country as well as for the U. N.

The very large majority given to Mr. Pearson is evidence of his popularity and of the confidence placed in him by the U. N.'s member countries. Issues of war and peace, of human rights, and of colonialism will confront the assembly this year with problems of great delicacy. The president will be required to demonstrate gifts of diplomacy and tact of the highest order if he is to cope with them.

"Mr. Pearson," adds the Citizen, "is virtually a founding father of the U. N., and perhaps as well as any man alive he understands its function as an instrument of conciliation. Behind the scenes, he can be relied upon to employ the great prestige of his office to good effect, for he has always stood for the adjustment of conflicting viewpoints, and has shown great skill in achieving conciliation. On questions of basic principle he has been uncompromising, but on tactical matters he has been flexible and empiric. Above all, he has tended to resist the view that the U. N. is an instrument for collective security, rather than a means of bringing disputing parties into agreement. His qualities have earned him deep respect in the U. N. They should stand him in good stead now, and should help, as far as the ability of one man can, to advance the welfare of the U. N."

Our Christmas Tree Trade

Last year, according to the current issue of Foreign Trade, 10,981,000 Christmas trees were cut down in the Maritimes, Quebec, Ontario and British Columbia forests. Of the total, some 7,400,000 went duty-free to the American market. Representing about 25 per cent of all the trees sold across the border, the Canadian exports were valued at \$2,300,000. This year, sales of Canadian trees in the United States are expected to bring about \$3,500,000.

The suggestion is made that Canadian exporters might expand their business abroad by following the lead of a large Minnesota company. This firm treats small swamp spruce with a special green, silver or white preservative and sets them in metal bases with sealed-in synthetic tree sap, for shipment as far away as Central and South America and the Far East. It is pleasant to think that trees from Canadian forests should brighten homes in far-away countries at Christmas.

EDITORIAL NOTES

The Department of National Defence has issued another official history in two volumes, "The Naval Service of Canada." It traces the development of the Royal Canadian Navy from earliest times when Canadian ships were part of the Royal Navy, through five wars, to the present day.

Training in first aid may mean the difference between being able to save a life and having to stand helplessly by in time of emergency. The classes being started in Charlottetown by the St. John's Ambulance Corps offer a real opportunity for service.

Sir Christopher Wren, English architect, was born this date 1632. He taught astronomy and not until he was thirty did he go seriously into architecture. "The list of his buildings reads like a guide to famous English and particularly London buildings. His plan, however, for laying out London after the Great Fire was never adopted.

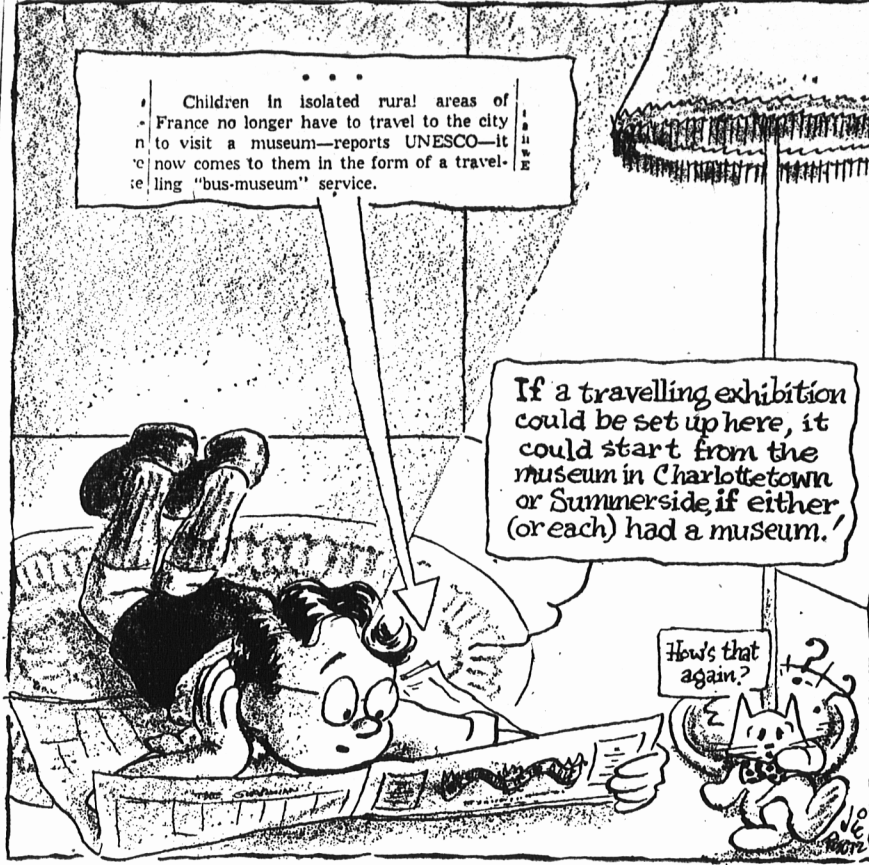
Finance Minister Abbott expressed a hope some time ago that increased national production would make possible some reduction in taxes. His opinion, however, that he would be lucky to break even by March 31 seems substantiated by the drop in the Government's surplus to \$290,967,000 from \$336,668,000 in September.

There was commendable imagination shown in making Canada's first contribution to the Colombo plan fishing vessels and a refrigeration plant to stimulate the Ceylonese fisheries. It will have the effect of increasing the food supply of that country notably and at the same time enable it to become more rather than less self sufficient.

A report on a practical flushing bar for use on tractors hauling mowers in game bird country has been received by Department of Lands and Forests officials. The flushing bar is used by farmers to frighten nesting game from their nests during the haying season. It has been observed to save literally hundreds of nesting pheasants and other birds.

With no less than 4,275 Canadian workers crossing into Maine to help with the potato crop it is scarcely any wonder that the number coming over to the Island has fallen off this year. It is one of the happier worries, however, to have labour in rather short supply.

Right You Are, Sonny!



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.

ALBERTA OIL AND WHEAT

Sir—Your editorial "Alberta Oil Boom," made very pleasant reading. It is clear that Albertans are, in the vernacular, "going to town" on a sea of black gold—and, obviously, there will be plenty of what our Labor friends term "fringe benefits" accruing, over the years, to the general welfare of the Canadian people from coast to coast? Meanwhile, I was almost as pleased to read the following keen summation by one of the prairie farm editors, which indicates that our Western brethren are the kind of folk who know how to handle the heady new wine of oil-gas wealth, and have their feet firmly anchored in the top six inches of the good earth: "The oil boom has been making headlines for five years on the Prairies. Right now the wells of Alberta are spewing forth the black gold at the rate of 200,000 barrels a day. That's \$500,000 a day of brand new wealth tumbling into the tills of the oil companies. In a year it adds up almost \$200,000,000. Even in these days of inflated dollars, nobody sneers at that string of digits. But let's get it into perspective. This year the prairies are harvesting the biggest crop ever grown. It will run, for all grains, well beyond 1,250,000,000 bushels, of which 630 million will be wheat, and high-grade wheat at that. This grain alone will bring almost \$2 billion, or 10 times as much as all the oil wells are capable of producing. Alberta alone will get more for its non-wheat coarse grain crop than will be realized from oil, with perhaps \$50 million left over." (James H. Gray, "King Wheat S.D.M. Rules," in Saturday Night).

"GOLD OF THE WHEAT"

UNHAPPINESS

Sir—I have been reading what "Observer" says in his diagnosis of the sickness of the world in this present age. He describes the symptoms in a way that indicates that he is a very keen observer. We sometimes go through the sermons that appear in The Guardian by two talented clergymen. They also diagnose and call the sickness "sin". They are quite at home on the subject, for they themselves have felt its effects. The four young men who broke jail at Toronto had their group picture in the paper as they peered through prison bars. We, at least some of us, felt a throb of pity for them. We felt like saying—are they any worse than others who have built their house of life on a sand bank to have it come to earth in utter ruin? They made foolish mistakes as one might make in a 10 acre bush by losing the sense of direction.

One symptom of "lostness" is dislike for being alone, or finding one's own self poor company, or wishing for a cluster of noise which eating in a restaurant. This is surely sickness of the soul. We do not run in the mornings to buy a meal downtown, or to the theatre, but we gaze for a few moments on God's handiwork, such as a low fog creeping over the fields, the sun breaking through the clouds, and the unsurpassed beauty of the changing leaf.

Asking pardon for a personal reference, this writer as a child was afraid of the creator of the starry heavens. And not knowing that the Divine Being was a God of love, was foolish enough to wish that this wonderful display had come by chance. We need peace in the world. And it must come through the influence of more and more people who have become acquainted with God, and have happiness in spite of ill health, material loss or old age. How get that way? We get faith by contacting those who have most. I am, Sir, etc.

ARCH. MACKENZIE

Kensington, P. E. I.

Notes By The Way

Have you noticed that nothing else seems to stimulate a long conversation like staging it in the centre spot of a crowded sidewalk downtown?—(Stratford Beacon-Herald.)

Once more there is talk in Germany of building Zeppelins—lighter-than-air flying machines. There was a time, in and after World War I, when the dirigible was held to be the chief hope of aerial navigation, but a series of catastrophes ended all that.—(Ottawa Journal.)

The growth of local government has been one of the healthiest developments in the recent history of Newfoundland politics, and has shown a tendency to mushroom during the past four years. In 1948 there were 157 town councils. Today there are 34. The population living in incorporated towns in 1948 was 67,000. Today it has risen to 113,000. Including St. John's, nearly half the population of the province is living in municipal areas.—(St. John's Evening Telegram.)

Mr. J. C. Radcliffe, chief of the industrial hygiene section, medical department, Ford Motor Company of Canada, Limited, warns of the effects of excessive noise on workers. It can endanger hearing, decrease efficiency and affect health. Too little attention has been given to this in the past. When friction grinds on a machine, oil is applied to save it from damage. Excessive noise, especially if it is rasping and irritating, cannot but have a deleterious effect on the mental and physical well-being of a worker long subjected to its grind.—(Windsor Star.)

Two twin copper sheets, rolled scrollwise, and apparently containing statutes and laws of the Essenes, were unearthed in a cave in Judea by Father Roland de Vaux, director of the Dominion Archaeological School. Coins dating from the second Jewish Revolt of 135 A. D., also were discovered with the copper scrolls. The Essenes were a sect of pre-Christian Jews who lived an ascetic life, and were distinguished by such characteristics as the community of property, the practice of charity, and the pursuit of virtue. They date from about the Maccabean age.—(War Cry.)

There is surprise at the great number of accidents. But the contrary is really surprising when one notices youngsters without any experience driving (only because it is their father's car) crazy races on our boulevards. It is recognized that one-third of the accidents—38 per cent to be exact—are caused by drivers who are less than 25 years old. That is the reason that calls for a surtax by the insurance companies that write the risks. If driving tests became obligatory at least half of these young drivers would disappear from the wheels and that would be a good thing for safety on the road.—(Le Soleil, Quebec.)

Perhaps there is no more lovely time of year to appreciate birds than on a long golden fall afternoon, when the old master painter has tipped his paintpots of yellow, orange ochre and scarlet over the hills to fill every valley and coulee with vivid color. Then, gathering in little flocks before leaving for their long trip to the southern states and Mexico, the mountain bluebirds flip and tumble from a fencepost or the topmost branch of a windswept bush, as though they believed summer could never end. And to the fortunate wayfarer who may glimpse their antics, the breath-catching wonder of an azure flash against the flaming yellow of an autumn-touched poplar grove is a delight to the eye, a balm to the soul.—(Regina Leader-Post.)

We leave to the pedagogues the task of drawing conclusions and above all of prescribing remedies for the failure of senior students to write and spell their mother

tongues correctly). Nevertheless sometimes wonder if modern teaching, with all its novelties, does not neglect the essential, the indispensable. We also wonder whether an exaggerated importance is not accorded to sports, in certain quarters at least. In any case, we are inclined to believe that, following the example of adults, students think too much about amusements and not enough about serious things, in their case, their studies.—(Montreal Matin.)

The next big industry for Western Canada it seems will be the potash fertilizer plant at Unity Saskatchewan. A contract has already been let to sink a shaft, seven feet by 12 feet, more than two-thirds of a mile into the earth, for the extraction of the potash mineral. Half way down the shaft will go through a high-pressure natural gas zone. How it will be sealed off during the excavation we would like to know, but presumably the engineers have it all worked out. This is but one of many such ventures that will be undertaken in the West in the next few years. Big things are ahead. What more fortunate country than Canada?—(Calgary Albertan.)

Here's some good news for those who want to give up smoking, but who have failed to do so by any of the orthodox systems. It's news of a new method of breaking the tyrant yoke of the noxious weed, which bears the personal guarantee of the owner of a chain of grocery stores in Britain who died a month ago. All you have to do is decide that you won't smoke again until you have \$20,000 in the bank. Of course it may occur to you that if you give up smoking you don't need \$20,000. But apart from that, the system does seem to pay reasonable dividends; the man who invented it left three-quarters of a million.—(Brandon Sun.)

The Poet's Corner

AUTUMN SECRET

When I behold the secret That lurks in every leaf That it can so transfigure An elemental grief, I think: for what great triumph Do maples march arrayed With spectacle of yellow To herald a parade? With such emblazoned glory As trees in Autumn hold, May I, too, move toward Death with Such pageantry of gold!

—Louis Ginsberg in Canadian Poetry Magazine.

Old Charlottetown

And P. E. I.]

BAKERS' PETITION

"A memorial of the Bakers of this Town, praying for a relinquishment of the duty on imported flour, amounting to eight shillings and sixpence per barrel, was laid before the Executive Council at its last sitting, and its prayer refused; the Board assigning as a reason for so doing that the Revenue Law of the Island does not empower the Executive Government to suspend its operation."—The Islander, Nov. 19, 1847.

FATE STEPS IN

LOUTH, England.—(CP)—Arthur and Jimmy Watson, 78-year-old brothers, recently met for the first time in seven years and Arthur decided to join Jimmy in an old folks' home. Arthur was killed by a truck as he went to mail his application form.

U.S. Visitor's Impressions Of P.E.I. In The 1870's

From an Article in Harper's Magazine, September, 1877. (Continued from Friday's Guardian)

"Since Prince Edward Island joined the Dominion, it has taken a fresh start in the march of improvement, and evidences of this are everywhere seen in its increasing commerce, the growing value of the fisheries, the many new buildings going up in Charlottetown and the environs, and the new railroad, measuring 167 miles in length, completed in the year 1875. It is on a gauge so narrow that only three persons can sit in the cars abreast, the seats being for one and for two persons alternately on each side of the car. The rolling stock was made on the Island, and is very creditable. The car windows are not washed quite often enough, however."

Shipbuilding was then in a very thriving condition. "In the various ship-yards of Mount Stewart, Summerside and Souris I counted sixteen vessels going up, from 75 to 1200 tons in size, and I heard of others building at Fortune Bay and elsewhere at the same time. The new tonnage built for export for the fiscal year of 1874-75 amounted to \$632,440 in value. The total value of the exports during the same period was \$1,940,901, of which lumber was \$105,407, agricultural products \$787,070, live stock \$34,070, and fisheries (chiefly in the hands of two enterprising Americans, Messrs. Churchill and Hall) \$308,037. Of the last item the United States took \$272,620, and the total exports to the States of the products of the Island for the year reached \$365,352. For the same period the total value of the imports of the Island amounted to \$1,973,222, the balance of trade showing an increased demand for foreign goods."

The Island's tourist prospects are not lost sight of. "One who has been in Charlottetown a week or two is not satisfied only with the evidences of insular prosperity furnished at the Government offices by the courteous and efficient servants of Her Majesty, or by the pleasant glimpses of farm and river and sea gained from window and roof. These very charming bits of nature only serve to tempt the visitor to rally forth, and, in carriage or boat or by rail, to view for himself the exquisite beauty of the Island and the proofs offered on every hand of its thriving condition, as well as the manifold attractions it offers to the tourist and invalid—in summer and fall, should be added with emphasis. In winter, which begins with November and lasts until May sometimes, Prince Edward Island offers special inducements to those who enjoy six months of snow, and unlimited opportunities for sliding on the freshest of stormy nights."

Details are given of the laborious and hazardous crossings by iceboat to and from the mainland during the winter months. "In summer, however," the writer emphasizes, "the weather is moderate and equable—more equitable than is found on the adjacent continent...Fogs, which are common in the Gulf and on the Atlantic coast of Nova Scotia, are very rare and hay fever, that distressing complaint, avoidable only by change of locality, is unknown on this lovely isle."

Reference is made to the enjoyable trips afforded by steamers plying up the East and West Rivers; also to the settlement of Micmac Indians at Rocky Point and to the larger one at Lennox Island, "which is reserved for them, and there they hold their annual pow-wows. Their number is gradually decreasing, and does not now exceed three hundred and five. They are in charge of a special commissioner."

The writer appears to have enjoyed particularly an excursion made to Rustico from Charlottetown, going by rail to Hunter River Station and thence by carriage "over farming country resembling some of the most beautiful portions of old England," by way of Wheatley River to Rustico Bay. "The children were playing in the road, but when they saw the carriage approaching they ranged themselves in a row, and as we passed the girls courted low, and the lads bowed in the most respectful manner."

By the French settlement and Roman Catholic church at Rustico they jogged along to the end of the peninsula near the mouth of the bay. "The last part was over a kelp-strewn beach which is covered at high tide. There, on a bluff, we found the Rustico House, admirably situated on the edge of the spruce woods. Facing the bay, like a breakwater, is a sand spit tufted with long salt grass. Opposite the hotel is the entrance into the bay; the flashing rollers of the St. Lawrence Gulf break on a bar across the mouth, and between the bar and the shore is a narrow shallow channel. Through this, twice daily during the season, the little fishing schooners of the port pass out to pursue the shore mackerel and herring fisheries. It is a very pretty sight to watch a fleet of these white-sailed fisher-boats dodging in and out about the bar."

"Outside of the spit, on the sandy beach, the surf bathing is unusually fine, and bathing-houses are also furnished to visitors, who enjoy, in addition, good boating facilities; and, of course, capital sport is afforded for those who love the rod and the line. The mackerel fishing outside is exciting and novel, while the Hunter and Wheatley Rivers in the immediate vicinity offer various attractions to fishermen, especially in sea-trout fishing."

All the rivers of the Island, the writer notes, were re-stocked in 1876, and the Dominion fishing laws enforced. "Lobsters are very abundant, and large canning factories have been established at Alberton and Souris. Duck, snipe, teal, plover, quail, and other game are sufficiently abundant to make hunting attractive, and dogs trained for sport are common. Wolves and deer, formerly plenty, are now all but extinct, but a few beaver and otter are still found, and in the tangled depths of the primeval forests which still exist here and there, black bears are quite numerous, hibernating disturbed in winter, and creeping forth sometimes in summer to try a fat slice out of a tender young heler."

The flavour and lusciousness of Island oysters is also noted. "Bisque oysters from Richmond Bay are already famous, and are shipped in large quantities to Great Britain and other parts of the Dominion."

(To be concluded)

The Age-Old Story

Blessed are the pure in heart; for they shall see God.

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