

THE GUARDIAN

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"The Strongest Memory is Weaker Than the Weakest Ink"

CHARLOTTETOWN, WEDNESDAY, DEC. 26, 1951

His Majesty's Broadcast

A privilege greatly enjoyed throughout the Empire yesterday was the pleasure of hearing once again His Majesty's Christmas broadcast. This occasion was of exceptional interest in view of His Majesty's recent illness and successful convalescence.

Among the chief blessings enumerated by His Majesty were those of home, of happy family gatherings and of the message of hope conveyed in the Christmas tidings. These are blessings in which all of us can share, being dependent neither on pomp and circumstance, nor on wealth and great possessions.

It is this "sense of oneness with our kind," as an English poet of another age has expressed it, that constitutes the joy of Christmas, that mellows our philosophy and makes for that "tolerance and understanding" of which His Majesty spoke, and which, if we could but carry into our everyday lives, would solve our social and economic problems more quickly than all the materialistic panaceas ever invented.

Christmas Season Has Begun

A familiar plaint of adults at this time is that preparations for Christmas begin at an ever earlier date and that Christmas itself slips by before it is realized. Former generations behaved quite differently. Christmas day was the beginning of a season of celebration and festivity continuing until Twelfth Night or Epiphany.

There really seems more grounds for celebrating after Christmas than before but in this day and age we find it difficult to avoid jumping at once into the following season.

Boosting The Island

Here is an exceptionally fine boost for the Island contained in the last issue of the C. B. Broadcaster: Burton Keirstead, one of the most frequently heard commentators on CBC's Weekend Review on Sunday nights, is a professor of economics at McGill University, a member of the Royal Society of Canada and the author of outstanding books on economics.

by the Maritime Gardener speaker on Sunday morning by reciting a Christmas Poem by Mr. John Robert Lamont Campbell, John of "The Lilacs", which appeared in our columns.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Wherever they might be His Majesty's subjects were made to feel yesterday that they were part of a great family.

It's all over for another year, including the inevitable disappointments. Better luck next time to the discouraged ones.

This is St. Stephens Day, Boxing Day, as well as Mrs. R. E. Mutch's shop assistants' day.

A safe prediction. For Christmas day the weather prophet announced there would be "severe frost in many places".

Like Scotsmen, the mail carriers and other postal employees probably expect to do their celebrating at Hogmanay or New Year's Eve.

Did you ever express a wish that when it was granted you were disappointed? "Yes," replied the bald-headed pessimist gloomily, "when I was a boy I wished I had no hair to be combed and brushed."

Heartfelt sympathy goes out to the suddenly bereaved relatives of Mr. Samuel Boulter who lost his life in a truck accident at Hunter River yesterday. He was returning home from a business trip to the country.

Members and Senators are reassembling in Ottawa for a continuation of the Special Session. The fact that they are getting this year a second \$4000 indemnity besides the \$2000 annual allowance should ease the regrets at having to be away from home during the holiday season.

"Could an agent be convicted of doing something that the principal is allowed to do?" asks an exchange. There are, of course, many things which governments, Federal or Provincial, can do with impunity, for which their servants must answer in courts of justice.

Women have been receiving congratulations for their part in public life on the strength of four lady mayors and a few other female public figures. On any statistical basis it seems that the ladies have a long way to go yet before they can be considered to have their full share of the responsibilities of citizenship.

Finance Minister Abbott's formula for attaining an eight-month surplus of \$634,700,000 would be of very great interest to the average family man just now. By the same token, it was by storing up its surpluses in gold during Great War I that the U. S. A. was enabled to come out on top of all the War Nations and lay the foundation for its untold millions after Great War II.

John Wilkes, English politician, died this date 1797. Celebrated for his wit and vigorous personality, he founded the "North Briton" which, being suppressed as seditious libel, led to his expulsion from the House of Commons. The failure of the prosecution by Grenville's ministry established the right of the Press to discuss public affairs, as the "Junius" prosecutions six years later extended that right not merely to the conduct of Parliament and the ministers but even of the King.

Children of Canadians stationed in Britain are reported to be having difficulty keeping up with English children of similar age. Part of the explanation, of course, is simply differences in the systems of the two countries. So far, however, as it results from our grades being less advanced, the experience should be a spur for our educationalists to better the situation.

To understand what is going on at the Kaesong truce talks "it is necessary to comprehend the Oriental mind", says Maj. Bramwell Welbourne, of the Salvation Army. Maj. Welbourne, who has spent 23 years in the Far East as a missionary declares nothing would come out of the Kaesong parleys, until the U. N. mediators strike a note that would allow both North Koreans and Chinese to bow out without losing face. Unless the United States, with all its industrial greatness, learns the secret of carrying the diplomatic ball it has taken from Britain, it will never win in the Far East, he said. "Korean philosophy is that they have little to live for and everything to die for", he said. The answer to their present barbarism lay in the treatment they had previously received from the Tartars, the Japanese and now the Chinese Communists!

Post Christmas Prescription



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.

PENNY-WISE ECONOMY

Sir,—I think that was a keen cartoon in your Dec. 5 issue, titled "Bossie's Not Keeping Up!" and showing that Jack Canuck's dairy herd is down 24%, though faced with a growing population—up 20%.

In this butter-margarine controversy, it cannot fairly be denied that, while urban and off-farm Canadians (with their superior economic and political organization) can point with pride (?) at the successful way in which they piled onto the dairy farmer, in the effort to pull sky-bound butter prices to more desirable levels, the victory has created more problems than it has solved.

Table listing various oils and their prices: Cottonseed oil 42,106,000; Soybean oil 18,187,000; Coconut oil 7,857,000; Fish & marine oils 4,751,000; Edible tallow 3,000; Sunflower seed oil 3,178,000; Other vegetable oils 968,000; Other animal oils 2,000.

Total 77,049,000. At the risk of over-simplifying this complex problem, so far as this reader is concerned, I have come to the conclusion that, in saving an estimated \$34,000,000—i.e., the price differential between the above output of margarine and a similar poundage of No. 1 Creamery Butter—and in losing half of this surface "saving" by way of soaring prices for milk, we are behind, rather than money ahead, by A-bombing our basic dairy farming industry.

I am, Sir, etc. BUSINESSMAN Toronto, Ont.

OLD TIMER AGAIN

Sir,—It is a rather common practice nowadays on the part of a few people to imply that those desirous of any change in the present order (or disorder) of things "presume to have all the answers." I regret that "Old Timer" has placed himself among those few, for his method of criticism is not difficult to use. The answers to our problem indeed cannot be easily or simply found. I do believe, however, that many of the answers can be found within the framework of Mr. Meisac's report, debatable as it may be—admitted in all due deference to those who may not agree with the proposals outlined and who may have other good ideas. I believe too, that we can profit very much from the experiences of those who may be ahead of us in the attempt to build organizations that will enable us to carry more responsibility in shaping our own destiny.

"Old Timer" undoubtedly is a firm believer in the saying, "Experience is a great teacher". Mr. Meisac was sent to England and the Continent to bring us back some of that experience. "Old Timer" judged the author of the report to be "interesting" in his appraisal of European conditions, but suddenly "unreliable" as soon as he attempted to apply to Island problems some of the information and experience he gathered. Perhaps if "Old Timer" gave me an opportunity to examine his background—an opportunity I have given him—then I might be able to suggest several reasons for his stand on these issues.

Old Charlottetown

(And P. E. I.) NORTHERN LIGHT MISSING

"The ice boat, as she is flatteringly called—Mr. Sewell's experiment—the "Northern Light", kindly given to us by the Dominion Government to fulfill the conditions of Confederation by keeping up our winter communications with the Continent, has encountered ice, for the first time this winter, and has been made a fast prisoner, heaven knows in what latitude or longitude. Only a heavy southerly wind can set her free, and that is a rare commodity at this season. Several violent admirers of Mr. MacKenzie have such implicit confidence in all that statesman's projects that they would on their route to Ottawa trust only to the "Northern Light", fully confident in her ability and expertness. These individuals, among whom is the editor of the Patriot, (Mr. Henry Lawson), are now tarrying at Georgetown, praying for a strong southerly wind. Mr. Pope crosses the Cape; but the individuals in question would not, of course, sail in the same boat with Mr. Pope, and so they are left behind."

—The Examiner, Feb. 9, 1878.

or skills of any kind; we see many young people leaving the Province for students in what we like to term "the million-acre farm". Now I am not suggesting that our educational system is directly responsible for this state of affairs; but I do hold to the contention that if we stressed other attitudes, if we offered in some cases study material that would be more appreciative of Island (or even Maritime) conditions and better geared to the needs of our students; if, in short, we imparted through our educational system a different tone to our whole outlook, then I believe that we would be taking a very effective step to build our Province as a better place in which to live and to improve our system generally. Or is it a crime for one to "cast aspersions" at a system that made him? Must we conclude that the purpose of our educational system is to immunize us, to blind us to what we believe are defects, weaknesses, or injustices, around us? If so, "Old Timer" has passed with honors! Considerable dislike is reserved in his last letter for the Marketing Board. It seems necessary to point out a few facts that he "deverly" (or otherwise) omits. He asks: "How many of the producers and dealers really asked for it?" Now, in the first place, it is producers that we are primarily concerned with. The records show that in response to a questionnaire sent out by the Federation of Agriculture officials to all the potato growers in the Province, over 98% voted in favor of the Potato Marketing Board. It is now constituted. To say then that it is "a scheme that has been foisted on the farmers" is to ignore the facts.

As far as "Old Timer" is concerned, I do not know whether or not these figures have added anything "new to the matter under debate". If they have, I suggest that he should not be writing about the Potato Board with the minimum of information he appears to have on the subject; if they have not, then I suggest that it is very misleading to discuss the issue in the public press without reference to its origin or to the very definite manner in which it came about. Everything that I have said has been offered in the hope that it would open up discussion on what I believe is the best approach to Island problems and the soundest solution to them that has been yet produced. I believe this even "as one so fresh from school". I may be wrong; but it will take someone who has made better use of his experience than "Old Timer" evidently has to convince me otherwise; neither will I be convinced by one who apparently has not sufficient faith in what he believes to warrant the signing of his name. I am, Sir, etc. WILFRED DRISCOLL Morell.

The Age-Old Story

And when Jesus was come into Peter's house, he saw his wife's mother laid, and sick of a fever. And he touched her hand, and the fever left her; and she arose, and ministered unto them. When the even was come, they brought unto him many that were possessed with devils; and he cast out the spirits with his word, and healed all that were sick.

The Hinner End O'yule

By A. Gordon Huson In Scotland Yule covers the twelve days from Yule Een (Christmas Eve) to Up-Hall-day or Twelfth Night (January 6) and so includes both Christmas and Hogmanay.

In pre-Reformation Scotland, Christmas Day was mainly a religious celebration, the fun and feasting concentrating on Up-haliday. After the Reformation, the celebration of both Christmas and Up-haliday was banned.

In ancient Scotland, New Year's Day was November 1; in Christian times, up to 1603 it was March 25. In the year 1600 New Year's Day was fixed as January 1 when the Scottish Privy Council discovered that "in all other well-governed Commonwealths and countries the year begins yearly upon the first of January, commonly called New Year's Day, and that this realm only is different from all the others in the count and reckoning of the years..." The change of day to January 1st brought New Year's Day within the Yule period and, coming shortly after the banning of Christmas and Twelfth Night, caused much of Twelfth Night's carnival spirit to be transferred to New Year's Eve, or Hogmanay.

So the Yuletide merrymaking concentrates round "the hinner end o' Yule". Many Yuletide customs, such as the "redding" (tidying) of the house, and the baking of the Yule bread became transferred to Hogmanay. As the festival increased in popularity it attracted to itself many of the rights formerly associated with the Old Celtic Quarter Days, notably saining, blessing, guizing, divination and "first-footing".

And so, for 300 years, millions of Scots the world over have brought in the New Year with feasting and revelry. "First-footing" is visiting in the early hours of New Year's morning. The "first foot" is the first person (other than a member of the household) who crosses the threshold after midnight, and the appearance of the first foot indicates the kind of luck the household will have during the year. It is important that the first foot should be well-favoured; a well-set-up dark man is the prime favourite, and next to him a comely fair woman. It is important too that they should be people of good repute. An empty-handed first foot signifies poverty and privation, so first footers invariably carry handseal, which may be anything from an orange (rather scarce in the Scotland of 1951) to a bottle of whisky (almost non-existent as it is all exported to North America).

After greeting the family, the first foot pours out a glass of whisky from the bottle he carries, and this must be drunk by the head of the house, who, in turn, pours out a glass for each of his guests. The table is spread with a big round cake of shortbread and Black Bun—a rich mixture of fruits, almonds and spices, moistened in brandy and enclosed in pastry crust. The shortbread is a descendant of the Yule bannock, which was baked between sunset and sunrise on Christmas Eve in honour of the Nativity. Black Bun is the ancient Twelfth-cake. The greater the number of first footers, the more highly honoured the household. The most notable survivals of the ancient Yule fires are the Burning of the Clavie at Burghhead, in Moray, and the Festival of Uplie-ha in Shetland. In Lerwick a full-sized, gaily painted replica

Notes By The Way

A Detroit syndicate reportedly has purchased the Empire State Building in New York, the tallest structure in the world. So far as we have learned, they do not intend moving it to Detroit. —Windsor Daily Star.

For a great many years the rousing song about John Peel has been a favorite. Yet it never occurred to us to think that he might have been real. He was merely a sort of musical myth. To how many others will it come as a surprise to learn that not only he but his horn, just auctioned off for the goodly sum of six hundred pounds, was real. Probably descendants of the hounds with which he used to be up and away at the break of the day are still chasing descendants of the foxes he hunted. He was a Cumberland yeoman, says the Encyclopedia Britannica, and lived from 1776 to 1854. John Graves composed his famous song while Peel must still have been enjoying the hunt, about 1828. Now, indeed, we ken John Peel. — Montreal Star.

How Can Dairying Decline Be Checked?

(The Gazette) The progressively greater decline in the operative scope and the production volume of Canada's dairying industry has occasioned increasing concern, not only within the industry itself but on the part of agricultural authorities of various governments. So far, however, no effective or lasting solution of the problem has been advanced, except a substantial scaling upward of dairy product prices that would realign the price relationship between different types of agricultural products and make the income returns from dairying more attractively.

The difficulty with any such readjustment is that, however workable it might prove as an economic process to achieve a desired end, it would undoubtedly prove unpopular and be resisted both publicly and politically. Prices of dairy products have become subject to various forms of political and, indirectly, public control, including the fixation of milk prices by provincial agencies, federal floor prices for butter, and bulk buying deals with overseas governments for cheese exports. There is also the regulation and in some provinces the prohibition of margarine as a competitor of butter, and the strong political pressure to any increase in the price of milk because of its status as an essential for good health.

This deep-rooted objection to any marked advance in the cost of dairy products is frankly recognized within the dairy industry, though at the same time it is deprecated as unjustified in view of the general upsurge in prices and costs generally. In a recent article in The Financial Post by Mr. Gilbert McMillan, president of the Dairy Farmers of Canada, public resistance to dairy price increases was cited as one of the two main factors in the difficulties of dairy producers and the consequent drastic curtailment of dairying operations and output. The dairy farmer, says Mr. McMillan, is caught in a critical squeeze between this factor on the one hand and on the other, the tremendously increased costs of labor, feeds and other requisites to maintain production. To meet these costs, he pointed out, the dairy farmer is receiving prices which have risen considerably less than those of nearly all other footstuffs.

A recent address by Mr. W. Frank Jones, past president of the National Dairy Council and head of the Borden Company, cited figures to show that the average industrial worker can buy about twice as much milk and nearly 20 per cent more butter with an hour's work today than he could in 1939. Both Mr. Jones and Mr. McMillan emphasize that the average price of milk in Canada has risen barely more than half as much percentage-wise as the prices of foods in general. In contrast,

of a Norse galley, mounted on iron wheels and manned by Vikings in winged helmets and coats of mail is dragged through the town by torchlight. The vessel is brought to the water, a bugle call is sounded, and, with tumultuous shouts, 400 or 500 burning torches are flung into the galleys. As the ship burns, a traditional song "The Norsemen's Home" is sung. Then follows dancing, feasting and riotous merriment. Next day the shops are shut so that the town can sleep off the excitement.

Upon leaving for home after a visit to this continent, Lady Warren, wife of the Lord Provost of Glasgow paid tribute to the attire of Canadian women. She considered it "wholesome" in taste, and better than "what is considered the good dresser in Paris." We don't think Lady Warren was saying this just to be polite. We think women on this continent, and that includes Canada, have better taste in clothes than those of any other continent. Certainly in Paris, Rome, London, and other great cities there are smartly dressed women. But, often these are women who can afford to spend a lot of money on apparel. On this continent, all stenographers or salesgirls with modest incomes can be, and usually are, well-dressed. Their clothing is neat, well-fitted and generally in good taste as to color. Paris may be a fashion centre, but fashionable clothes are disseminated among a greater proportion of women on this continent than anywhere else. — Windsor Daily Star.

latest statistics show that farm labor wage rates are more than four and a half times what they were before the war, and the costs of farm equipment and materials have more than doubled. The squeeze of these divergent trends has turned many dairy farmers from producing dairy products to other lines of farming which offer better returns, such as beef cattle, grains, hogs, poultry, etc., and thousands of dairy cattle have been sold off for meat. In the face of a pronounced increase in Canada's human population and in the accompanying demand for dairy foods, the population of milk cows has shrunk by an estimated 500,000 head or about 15 per cent.

The output of milk has dropped by more than a billion pounds since the war, and production of butter has declined by 40 million pounds since 1948, to the lowest level in 20 years. Manufacture of cheese, once an important export, has been cut almost in half. Such conditions have inspired the fears of Mr. McMillan and other industry leaders that dairying is being "gradually strangled" and that even more serious shortages of dairy products in future will compel dependence on imports considerably beyond the relatively moderate purchases of overseas butter which have been undertaken. As Mr. McMillan suggests, the answer to the problem can hardly be provided alone by the dairy industry but will require the sympathetic interest and helpful cooperation of governments and the public. The dairy industry is too important and too vital a source of food supplies to be allowed to expire, or nearly so, by a process of default and indifference.

The Poet's Corner

THE LAMP

As yonder lamp in my vacated room With arduous flame disputes the darksome night. And can, with its involuntary light, But lifeless things, that near it stand, illumine; Yet all the while it doth itself consume, And, ere the sun begins its heavenly height With courly beams that meet the shepherd's sight, There, whence its life arose, shall be its tomb— So wastes my light away. Perforce confined To common things, a limit to its sphere. It shines on worthless trifles undesign'd With fainter ray each hour impurple'd here. Alas! to know that the consuming mind Shall leave its lamp cold, ere the sun appear. —Charles Whitehead

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