

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, THURSDAY, JAN. 24, 1952

Farm Loans

Discussions are taking place in farm organizations and Credit Unions on the desirability of greater freedom for borrowers who intend to take up farming for livelihood. The idea seems to prevail that Banks are institutions made of money which they can dispose of on loan, irrespective of sound security and expectation of repayment within a reasonable period.

Mr. B. C. Gardner, President of the Bank of Montreal, at the annual meeting of the Bank set forth the Bank's position thus: "It is in the interest of any bank, if only for reasons of profit, to make available to its customers all the money they can safely and usefully use in their business undertakings."

Any Bank seeking to accommodate its borrowers to the extent that some of the farm organizations suggest, would, if permitted by the Central Bank, be preparing for a run on the Bank by depositors. A Government guarantee, of course, is a horse of another colour. It will be recalled that the Potato Growers' Association under Mr. Boulter operated for long on a Provincial Government guarantee loan which it was ultimately able to repay.

The Burns Concert

In few parts of the English-speaking world is the anniversary of Robert Burns permitted to pass without observance. Certainly this is not the case in Prince Edward Island, where Scottish traditions have been nurtured since the days of the first British settlers, and where the name of Burns is not only a household word, but is pre-eminent among the poets of all time.

The Burns anniversary concert tomorrow evening, sponsored by the Zion Men's Brotherhood, takes place in the Prince of Wales College Hall, and as usual there will doubtless be a large and representative attendance from all parts of the Province. A fine programme has been prepared, and an evening of first-class entertainment is assured.

No More Ghost Towns

Ghost towns are regarded as a symbol of the frontier. They mushroomed up with the advance of civilization, had their brief gaudy day while their resources, mineral or otherwise, were being exploited and then were left behind while the people who had created them moved on to greater fields. The towns stood gaunt and empty, a monument to an age to which conservation meant less than nothing.

Ruthless exploitation of resources is no longer an acceptable practice, but in mining it is unavoidable that exhaustion be the ultimate end of operations. It will not, however, create ghost towns any more, even in the Canadian northland. Sheridan, a Manitoba mining town of 1,700 persons is at the end of its mineral resources but the townspeople are simply moving, lock, stock and barrel, to Lynn Lake, a distance of 164 miles farther North. Tractor trains, moving one or more houses across snow and ice covered wilderness are the answer which must also give the experts something to think about when considering northern problems of supply and transportation.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Truman's staggering budget probably gives us a foretaste of things to come, although this country's full production can-

not become effective for at least another year.

Few will regret the decline in number of illicit stills indicated in the R. C. M. P.'s overall annual report. Associated with prohibition conditions, they long continued after their original reason for being was no longer valid.

It is not from caprice that the U. N. legal committee put off defining "aggression." It used to imply declaring war on a neighbouring country. Now it can be accomplished without overstepping almost any formal bounds.

It is no answer to community planning proposals that we cannot afford them. The fact is that it is a very rich community indeed that can afford haphazard development and the adjustments that must follow.

Mailing old age security cheques at the end of the month instead of the middle as with family allowance cheques must be a considerable relief to the Post Office but detracts slightly from the satisfaction of the recipients.

It is easy for the president of the Canadian Federation of Agriculture to say that exporting countries must lose their fear of surpluses but, as he is no doubt well aware, until satisfactory methods of disposing of such surpluses are available they mean ruinous prices for the farmer.

A communication from the Carleton County Women's Institute, N.B., opposing Daylight Saving Time was considered and a resolution passed that in the opinion of the Carleton County Council the adoption of Daylight Saving Time was not in the best interests of the county.

Frederick the Great, second king of Prussia, was born this date 1712. The first half of his reign saw a series of wars, culminating in the Seven Years War, the apex of Frederick's military career. He devoted himself largely to improving the Prussian army but was wise enough to also see that government, agriculture and industry were on a sound basis.

This is evidently to be a year of municipal elections in the Province, for not only Charlottetown, but several other incorporated towns and villages are to have the opportunity of expressing by vote their democratic right to say who shall rule over them.

It is largely when one happens to know some of the individuals sacrificed in disasters that the poignancy of grief and sorrow is most deeply felt. That must be the case with newspapermen in Canada on learning that one of the victims of the airplane disaster at New Jersey was Mr. K. R. Wilson, editor of the Financial Post who resided at Ottawa.

A movement is on foot to run a tunnel from Levis to Quebec City. A largely attended meeting for this purpose was held under the auspices of the Chamber of Commerce, when it was divulged that a 4,000 foot tunnel would cost \$18,000,000. Finance companies are prepared to advance 60 per cent of the cost if Levis and Quebec City will guarantee 40 per cent.

No one need say that the rising generation are not looked after in Charlottetown with service organizations of all kinds at their command, and two community centres like that of the "Y" and the Holy Redeemer specifically devoted to their interests. All that seems to remain is for parents themselves to be as solicitous for their offsprings' welfare as are these organizations.

Mayor Charlotte Whitton of Ottawa does not think much of the proposed appointment of a Canadian as Governor-General. Living and working in the capital she has not a very high opinion of politicians at the best, and thinks a move to transfer the eminent position from a distinguished imperialist to a successful politician would be a step towards the abolition of the position altogether. Nor does she think much of Mr. Drew holidaying in Nassau while the issue was at stake.

Everything comes to him who waits, even the end of Toronto's transportation strike. Both employees and public must have rejoiced on learning that the normal traffic was to be restored yesterday morning. The dispute uncovered in the emergency the underlying neighbourliness of the Torontonians all too infrequently otherwise put to the test. But relying for any length of time on the good offices of a neighbour begins to pall after a time, and both the auto owners and their beneficiaries must be glad that they are back on their own.

Valuable Lesson



Old Charlottetown

(And P. E. I.) WINTER MAIL SERVICE

"In the New Brunswick Legislature on the 1st inst. Mr. Smith committed the bill to amend the New Brunswick and P. E. Island Railway Company Act. The mover explained that the bill was to receive and continue the existing act for the construction of a railway to Cape Tormentine from some point on the Intercolonial Railway. He said it appeared that the 'Northern Light', which had been trying to carry the mails during the winter between Georgetown and Pictou, was a failure, and the work would have to be given up. He had reason to believe that during the coming summer the Dominion Government would build boats at Cape Tormentine to run either daily or tri-weekly in winter between Capes Tormentine and Traverse, and if the work could be done successfully, as he believed it would be done by well-manned boats, he had no doubt that the Dominion Government would aid the Company in the construction of the proposed road. The bill was agreed to." -The Examiner, April 16, 1878.

The Age-Old Story

As for me, I will behold thy face in righteousness: I shall be satisfied, when I awake, with thy likeness.

Trial By Publicity

(The Printed Word) Discussion of price maintenance has put into the background what is the most unjust feature of the anti-combines law as it now is. This is the provision that if, when the commissioner files a condemnatory report on any industry or group of companies, publication must follow within 15 days. This got the present minister of justice into hot water, for he suppressed a report on a group of companies that had been acting under instructions of price controllers functioning by virtue of the war measures act.

As far back as June, 1948, J.G. Diefenbaker said that the combines commissioner's report in such a case should not be published "until after prosecution has taken place." Mr. Diefenbaker is a doughty foe of combines. On the floor of the house of commons he has taken many a swing at them, real or imaginary. But he also is a strong and articulate foe of injustice.

On occasion, a report accusing people of criminal combines has been published and there has not been a prosecution in any court. Thus the accused are condemned in many minds without an opportunity to defend themselves. More recently a report that is followed by a prosecution results in acquittal. But the stain is never entirely removed. Even when there is a plea of guilty, as with the flat-glass people, surely ample justice would be done by subsequent publication of the commissioner's chastise prose.

The minister of justice in 1948, Mr. Isley, disagreed with Mr. Diefenbaker. The now chief justice of Nova Scotia said "the public has no way of knowing whether there is any combine or not, and that there was no opportunity for public opinion to operate on governments, attorneys general or ministers of justice." There is a minority there, easily not around, perhaps, by mere publication of a recommendation of prosecution. Then 'government's attorneys general or ministers of justice' could present their reasons why they did not prosecute, if they did not. The trial, when it comes, will inform the public. An alleged murderer has more protection than alleged combiners.

Notes From Another Island

By "Anson"

LONDON, England: As I wrote a couple of weeks or so ago in this column, a lot of people with commercial axes to grind lose no time in removing all traces of Christmas as soon as possible after the gift-buying season is over. No blame to them for their haste; in the cut and thrust of commerce it is not enough simply to be in step with the times. That is the minimum requirement for survival; anything less could be disastrous; success demands at least one jump ahead of the calendar always.

There are others, however, business folk of a different kind, who prolong their own particular part in Christmas festivities far into the New Year and even into early Spring. Their business is show business. They are the promoters of the (so-called) Christmas entertainments, of which there are two—the pantomime and, nowadays, the circus. Both have their roots deep in the sands of time, and, like most other things, they have changed with the passing years. How they have changed, and not entirely for the better, has been thrown into prominence recently as a result of a brief controversy that arose out of tragic circumstances.

During the public performance of a circus now running in London a motor-cyclist, riding the spectacular "Wall of Death", crashed and received injuries from which he subsequently died. He had scorned the use of a safety net that might have saved his life, but this, said perturbed citizens, was not the real point. Wider issues were involved, calling into question the whole idea of acts, such as this, that have as their main appeal the great danger to the performers. That great skill is required is not denied. But, it is suggested, too many members of the audience are too much concerned with possible developments if the skill of the performer is not adequate for the task.

It is asked: Is this the right approach to any form of entertainment? Even more important: Is this the sort of thing one should expect to find in shows that tradition demands should be tailored to suit family outings? Pertinent questions indeed, like that of the newspaper correspondent who suggested that if people were really interested only in the skill of, say, a tight-rope walker, they would be just as thrilled if the rope were six inches above the ground as if it were sixty feet up. But family entertainment or not, would many schoolboys of the present generation think much of that?

Incidental to all this, it was perhaps a curious coincidence that no less a person than Somerset Maugham should throw his weight into the controversy, unwittingly but forcibly. A new film, featuring three of his short stories, was released at about the time when argument was at its height. One of the stories concerned the mental anguish of a girl whose job it is to risk her life twice nightly in a dare-devil stunt, and Mr. Maugham makes no bones about his feelings in the matter.

And what of pantomime? It, too, has had its share of criticism lately. Not here a question of too much dare-devilry, but a lowering of moral standards. Too many coarse jokes that have no place at all in the nursery stories on which pantomime is traditionally based. "How can we take children to such shows?" ask anxious parents. In reply, managements point to packed houses and say, simply: "It's what the public want."

What the public certainly do want is bigger, slicker pantomime, in keeping with the modern trend for spectacle on the grand scale. Judge views with stern disapproval trial by publicity.

The Poet's Corner

SKATING BY MOONLIGHT

Beside the sleeping river's edge, Upon a ragged, rocky ledge, A single pine tree gloved in snow Casts shadows on the ice below.

The boisterous skaters wheel and dart, Each chequered plaid, each racing heart, Each shouting voice, each glowing face Upbraids the brooding of the place.

The skaters pass, the laughter dies, The emptiness of winter skies, Accents the moon's white, stony glare Hung in the silence of the air.

—Robert Rogers

Scented Bait Used To Lure Lobsters

(New York Times)

Scented bait that attracts lobsters to fishermen's traps has been perfected by perfume chemists, Paul F. George, instructor in chemistry and chemical engineering at the Case Institute of Technology, asserted in a recent report to the Erie section of the American Chemical Society. The bait is made of fish and contains added perfume oils that are appealing to lobsters, Mr. George explains. While similar bait for fish has not been developed, Mr. George indicated that anglers could expect a product of this type in the future.

Surviving the status of "Perfumes and Perfumery Materials," Mr. George reported that synthetic perfumes had made possible far-reaching advances in the art and science of perfumery since World War II. Man-made essences and oils, however, should not be considered as replacements for natural products he adds, but rather as indispensable complements to them.

An important task of the modern perfumer is that of creating "masking" odors which impart pleasing scents to many common articles, he says. Masking odors are superimposed on other odors usually undesirable, to produce a more pleasing effect, Mr. George explains. "Countless articles with which we daily come in contact must be odorized or deodorized before they are placed on the market," Mr. George continues. "Some synthetic rubber articles, for example, if not deodorized, would be so malodorous that few persons would use them. A few types of plastics must be chemically treated to make their odor more pleasant. Such materials as paints, shoe polishes, inks, synthetic fibers and thousands of other goods are also treated to make their final odor agreeable."

"A product of recent research was the development of a shark repellent. It had been noted that sharks never approached regions where a dead member of their species was found. When it was discovered that it was the odor that repulsed the sharks, chemists began working on the problem and finally succeeded in duplicating the substance which possessed the de-

If that want is satisfied, big box office business results as is being demonstrated by two shows currently running. But each is pantomime with a difference. The difference is that the whole show is staged on ice, every one of the cast an expert skater, and the performance from start to finish as slick as any Hollywood musical, and as smooth as the ice itself.

Perhaps these shows will set a new standard for the modern pantomime. By their success they may force other managements to look to their own productions in future years, and apply the principles of good, clean fun with, possible to their own surprise, triumphant results.

Notes By The Way

It is becoming common knowledge that 25 cents of the retail price of a package of cigarettes goes to the Government in taxes. It is too bad that the public does not know how much tax is hidden in the retail price of a host of other commodities in every day use.—(Winnipeg Tribune).

The Cutty Sark, famous clipper of the old days of sail, may be fitted out again and make her last run to Australia, there to end her days. Still sound of hull, she would probably relish nothing better than once more to get a bone in her teeth and go racing around Old Cape Staff on the long leg to Sydney Harbor.—(Hamilton Spectator).

Depressing news for button makers is contained in a Dominion Bureau of Statistics release on the "button, buckle and fastener" industry. In 1950, this industry—on which so much depends—produced goods valued at \$9,777,000. Of this, some \$5,970,000 represent zipper fasteners, while the year's output of buttons was valued at only \$2,324,000. The retreat of the button before the all-conquering zipper continues apace.—(Edmonton Journal).

Our present King, whose choice of a new bow for army officers is to be known as the "George Bow", has been a good deal more restrained in matters of uniform than some of his predecessors. It was, for instance, a ruinous business for an officer during the Regency, as in George IV's reign, to have to keep pace with alterations of uniform. The Prince Consort also liked to have his say on such matters, as in the case of the boys of Wellington College, for whom he designed a complete outfit.—(Manchester Guardian).

"Every empty lot in Ottawa, Winnipeg or Calgary," Bruce Hutchinson writes, "is a skating rink for six months a year." Please, Mr. Hutchinson, if you don't mind, never mention to us those frigid sub-Arctic places. Every month or so we have what we call a "January thaw"—like this last big one—and these frequent spells of sub-tropical straw-hat weather encourage our citizens to stay home and sired odor. Release of this material into the water by fliers who had been shot down assured them of the absence of sharks for miles around.—(Port Arthur News-Chronicle).

blow their excess profits here, instead of in Florida.—(Ottawa Citizen)

Canadian troops in Europe feasted at Christmas on turkey from France and Holland, cranberry sauce from Denmark, plum pudding from Britain, grapes from Italy and Spain and mixed nuts from almost everywhere. Well it's global war they're trying to prevent.—(Windsor Star).

A perennial complaint is that government orders are couched in such strange language that the average citizen can't figure out what they mean. However, a tax bill always comes along eventually to clear up any misunderstanding.—(Winnipeg Tribune).

It is probably up to the people of Northern Ontario to set the glib southerner right in respect to the protection afforded to porcupines, "because they are easy to catch, and will save a man from starvation if he is lost in the bush." We are acquainted with the stories of many, many men who have become lost in the bush—or temporarily lost their bearings—and we have yet to hear of a lost man looking around for a footloose porcupine to replenish his depleted rations. There is no such thing as protection for the porcupine, and the story of protection for the purpose of keeping lost men from starving in the bush is sheer romance.—(Sudbury Star).

The coach-manager of a junior hockey team complains that, when he protested to a referee about a player's spitting on one of his players as a gesture of contempt, the referee replied that the spectator had paid his way to see the game and could do what he liked. The privilege given the paid spectator are much too broad if they include that kind of conduct. A hockey game is supposed to be a sports spectacle. A part of a referee's duties is to direct the general conduct of a game and to see that it is conducted as a sporting event. He must preserve his dignity and so act as to earn the respect of the players. He cannot do that if he agrees that it is the privilege of spectators to spit on and otherwise abuse the players. If he cannot do anything more about such things he could at least protest. To hold that it is a privilege is altogether wrong.—(Port Arthur News-Chronicle).

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