

THE GUARDIAN

Authorized as Second Class Mail Post Office Department, Ottawa, The Thomson Co. Ltd. Editor and Manager, Ian A. Burnett. Associate Editor, Frank Walker. CIRCULATION "Covers Prince Edward Island like the dew" "The strongest memory is weaker than the weakest ink". CHARLOTTETOWN, WEDNESDAY, FEB. 24, 1954

The Farm Program

A planned farm program was the theme of Mr. Walter R. Shaw's opening address to the Agricultural Council which has as its theme production and marketing. These, indeed, seem to be the pressing problems of agriculture in this Province. The various reports which have been presented to date show the traditional problems to be well in hand. Indeed in several lines such as the testing of fungicides and insecticides it was noted that growing conditions were too good to give really satisfactory tests of preventive measures.

A similar picture is given of production in the dairy industry with butter production at an all time high and cheese up also both in quantity and quality. Poultry also showed both expansion and profit and it was commented on livestock production that beef production had even over-expanded. The contrary is the case with hog production, however, which fell off unwarrantably in quantity although the outstanding quality of Island swine is being maintained and improved.

The various reports indicate that much is being done to provide the farmer with the best quality of seed and breeding stock and to enable him to keep down the many pests to which farm production is subject.

Another Victory

News of the imminent lifting of all food and commodity rationing in Britain will be received with satisfaction by friends of the British people in all parts of the world. While it does not indicate that Britain's economic troubles are over, it does seem to suggest that for the first time since 1939 the end of a rigid austerity program is at least in sight. It will mean not only more food for British tables but, what is even more welcome, a realization that the country is a step farther along on the road to complete recovery from the well nigh devastating effects of the war.

It is a matter of common knowledge that we in Canada have never known real economic stringency. Even in the war years rationing was little more than a routine precautionary measure. There was indeed some scarcity in a few scattered items; but at no time was food shortage more than a slight inconvenience. The war was no sooner over than our government felt justified in removing most of the war-time controls.

In Britain the situation has been very different. Rationing during the war and for nine years thereafter was very real and very earnest; it might almost be called a necessary tool in the struggle for survival. The heroic way in which the British people accepted the economic facts of post-war life deserves to be numbered among the thrilling episodes of their long and eventful history. Now that they can see their way clear to loosen the bonds of austerity which they have accepted cheerfully and with good humour for so long, they will receive congratulations from many quarters on yet another national victory.

Better Lobster Traps

Canada's Atlantic lobster fishermen may beat a path to the door of the man who designs a better lobster trap for them, says The Fundy Fisherman. And that is just what the fishery scientists at the Atlantic Biological Station at St. Andrews are trying to do although they are not looking for fame or fortune.

The conventional trap used for many years by lobster fishermen is a contraption of wooden laths and twine which is highly efficient and manages to fool most of the lobsters practically all the time. But it is heavy to man-handle—about 67 pounds soaking wet with concrete ballast—and highly susceptible to storm damage. Lobster fishermen in the Maritime Provinces alone have almost two million lobster traps, valued at over six million dollars, and their normal loss each year is about twenty-five per cent. In recent years much heavier losses have occurred in certain areas following severe storms.

While the recent institution of federal government insurance on lobster traps should help offset some of these losses, the scientists at St. Andrews believe that a more durable trap would enable the fisherman to obtain greater profits from the fishery.

According to a report submitted at the annual meeting of the Fisheries Research Board in Ottawa recently experiments have

been conducted with several traps of conventional shape but made of steel rods. They are many pounds lighter to handle out of water while they have about the same weight in the water as the stone-weighted wooden ones. They offer much less surface to current or wave action and are less likely to be tossed about by storms. In fact during two severe storms in coastal waters last year the steel traps were unscathed while half the number of conventional traps in the same area were destroyed.

The big question, of course, is whether steel traps will catch as many lobsters as the old wooden ones. Tests carried out off Port Maitland, N. S. in November resulted in the steel traps catching about as many legal-sized lobsters as the wooden ones. Before any definite conclusions can be reached as to their efficiency, however, many more trap hauls will have to be made and the performance of ten of these metal traps is being studied at the present time during the lobster season at Port Maitland.

Paul Garland's Dismissal

There is no place in the world where liberty of conscience is more secure than in Britain. It is one of the essential rights which have not been disturbed by all the social changes that have taken place in recent years. Every man's mind is a kingdom over which he himself bears rule. However, like all other rights, this one carries with it definite obligations; in no instance can it be permitted to serve as a cloak for willful irresponsibility. This is the significance of the report about the dismissal of a young man from his local Boy Scout troop because of Communist affiliation.

Paul Garland will not be persecuted nor humiliated in any way because of his beliefs; his membership in a Young Communist group will in no way affect the rights and privileges which belong to every British subject. He is being put out of the Boy Scouts for the very simple and practical reason that Scout principles and Communist principles are incompatible. A solemn affirmation of faith in God and of allegiance to the Queen would quite obviously have no meaning for anyone who accepts the Communist assumption that religion is an opiate and the monarchy a relic of medieval feudalism. It may be that in due time Paul will see for himself the utter futility of the Communist creed; others who have allowed themselves to be led astray by the same insidious propaganda have been reconverted to freedom's way. If and when that time comes his erstwhile Scout associates will be among the first to extend to him the right hand of fellowship. Meanwhile, it would be fair neither to himself nor to the Scout movement to allow him to continue nominal membership in an organization established on religious faith and national loyalty.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Heavy ice off St. John's at this time of year rather paradoxically indicates an early spring. Islanders are long familiar with the phenomenon of heavy ice only appearing in Northumberland Strait when the back of winter has been broken.

The depth which it is proving necessary to bore to find bedrock for the proposed Federal Building in Charlottetown must come as a surprise to many. Drilling twenty-six feet without striking rock indicates an alluvial deposit laid down over a long period of time. The Island must once have been submerged for a very considerable period.

The annual conference of the Agricultural Council is holding its sessions at the Charlottetown Experimental Farm is probably the best assembly of expert opinion on Prince Edward Island agriculture that meets at any time. The ten sub-committees deal in a scientific manner with almost every phase of farming.

Chester William Nimitz, American admiral, was born in Texas this date 1885. A submariner, he rose in the First World War to be chief of staff to the commander of the Atlantic fleet's submarine force. In 1938 he was promoted to rear admiral and following Pearl Harbour he became commander-in-chief of the Pacific fleet with the rank of admiral. He was responsible for the organization and strategy which restored American power in the Pacific until MacArthur was ready to invade Leyte.

Scientists continue to make discoveries that were well known to practical men of years gone by. In this Province there are many who remember and some who took part in the hard work of spreading thousands of loads of seaweed on the fields. Now the National Research Council and the Department of Agriculture have determined that seaweeds contain polysaccharides, chemical compounds that are excellent soil binders to retain soil moisture and to serve as soil conditioners as well as the more common fertilizer ingredients.

On The Job



PUBLIC FORUM

This column is open to the discussion by correspondents of questions of interest. The Guardian does not necessarily endorse the opinion of its correspondents.

PROGRESSIVE EDUCATION

Sir,—Little "d" launched into wishful thinking in "Let's Talk It Over" (The Guardian, Feb. 22). His prattle about "the complacent old stand-patters, etc., etc." is entirely irrelevant. No writer so far has contended that the past was perfect, or refused to envision evolution in educational processes in the future. "Traditionalists" believe in progress. They agree with little "d" that progress means change, but they do not admit that every change is an improvement.

"Let's Talk It Over" goes off the beam in identifying educational progress with progressive education. The author seems blissfully unaware of the fact that pedagogical progressivism is an academic ideology just as devastating to the educational world as Communism is to the international world. That variety of pedagogics is based on John Dewey's philosophy of pragmatic relativism. It is a self-contained ideology with its own techniques, terminology and propaganda machinery.

To deny that there is progressive education in this Province is just as preposterous as to deny that the Island is surrounded by water. All our educational magnets received their degrees from universities on the Canadian mainland or in the U. S. A. Some are graduates of Teachers' College, Columbia.

The reviewer of "So Little For The Mind" said: "She (Miss Neatby) places herself on the side of the 'traditionalists.' Then he proceeds to belabor the work with a barrage of opprobrious epithets: 'illogical,' 'diffuse,' 'repetitious,' 'exasperatingly unclear,' 'prejudiced,' 'tendentious.' Now, Mr. Chandler, the spokesman for educational officialdom in P. E. I. And it is quite evident that he is not a 'traditionalist.' Then, the only thing he can be is a 'progressivist.'

A little while later, the Superintendent of City Schools declared: "Despite the able presentation which Dr. Neatby has made, I still remain a supporter of the modern school with its progressive methods." In the Feb. 22nd issue of the Guardian, the Assistant to the Director of Education conforms to the pattern and uses the progressive lingo: "Reading readiness," "interesting," "stimulating."

The Poet's Corner

THE BOY

No fence will keep a growing boy outside. Even if it be spiked and tall to boot. Can wanton whirlwind stem the morning tide, Can rock defy the reach of living roof? In dreams of storming bastions he will see For toe-hold widened crevices that slant. And he will ferret ride-outs with a knee. One hand cupped stoutly on a dagger-point. Your boy can come to terms with any fence: A postern gate or fretted barricade. He means to climb such tall impediments Rather than scuff thick bluestone, newly laid. And having set his lance and made his vow, Your would-be knight has never questioned how. —Elizabeth Mabel Bryan in Christian Science Monitor.

The Age Old Story

Blessed are they that do his commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city.

Old Charlottetown

From an anonymous letter in the Royal Gazette, Sept. 13, 1836: "Any person who has crossed on the Hillsborough Ferry at two time within the two last seasons cannot but observe that the regulations are flagrantly disregarded. The substitution for a horse boat is an old soddan craft, with much difficulty kept above water, not even fit for a dung barge. There is only one small boat (and that provided very recently) in which a passenger may trust himself with any safety, or at least without being subject to sit cramped like a tailor, or the pleasant sensation of wet feet, while rowed across at about the speed of a criminal's cart.

"Instead of fifteen minutes only, passengers are in many instances detained for an hour, sometimes two, and not infrequently, two hours and a half. To see a boat plying recently after sunrise is nearly as rare an object, at that particular time, as the evening star; and to get a gig or wagon over before eight o'clock in the mornings is next to impossible. One drunkard, and a lad hardly capable of sustaining the labour, are the persons to whom the management of one of these crazy boats is frequently committed. Very commonly sixteen, eighteen, and oftentimes more than twenty persons, are suffered, if not compelled, to cross in a boat at one time; and treatment the most rude and insulting is daily experienced from the ferry-men."

The next point Gibbon makes was the Roman's mad craze for pleasure; sports every year became more exciting and brutal. The U. S. is going much the same way. Sport, horse-racing, boxing, football, which hardly knows a Sabbath day, with sport far more important than church and religion. Kept within bounds and necessary, but in the U. S. money-madness has carried them to the dogs. I have never read of the Romans "fixing" any race or fight as they often do in the States or is that just a modern trick to fool the betters?

One next cause of downfall was the building of gigantic armaments for defence and offence while the real enemy was within, the decadence of the people. In the next five years the U. S. expects to spend 56 billions on arms. She, quite honestly, feels that that is necessary. She does not want to be caught again unprepared. Russia is a potential danger. But see where it is leading! Recently a law had to be passed raising the national debt level to 200 billions. No fear? Perhaps not, but a heavy national debt is no safe-guard.

The final point Gibbon makes is the decay of religion, and becoming impotent to guide the people. This is the most fatal happening in the U. S. and threatens grave issues. Recently, Debilius, a European bishop, said to the American church that they should have two altars, one for worship of God, the other for the dollar. This same might well apply to our Canadian churches. "The world, the flesh and the devil," is a trial of evil forces, playing on human life, sometimes heard from the pulpit; and of these there is far the most widespread and fatal is the world. Money, money, money, millions, billions, incomes rocketing all over the country! In 1531 Pizarro, the Spaniard, invaded the Inca empire in Peru and carried away shiploads of gold and silver which enriched Spain for centuries, but that gold had a good deal to do with Spain's downfall. That unbridled desire for wealth is perhaps the greatest menace the U. S. faces today.

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(And P. E. I.)

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Notes By The Way

Most of us can read the handwriting on the wall. The mistake we make is in kidding ourselves into believing it isn't true. —Stratford Beacon-Herald.

Wonder what the buggy-whip manufacturer, who saw the hand-writing on the wall a few years back and switched over to airplane propeller manufacture, is thinking about in this jet age. —Stratford Beacon-Herald.

University of California atomic scientists have produced "Element 99," the heaviest known, in their cyclotron, but don't know what to do with it. At last this may be the paper weight that will keep papers from blowing off your desk whenever a window is opened. —Windsor Daily Star.

Our overseas guests have complained of menus in French. They agree with Mr. Lillywick, who on learning the French for water remarked: "Lo, eh! I don't think anything of this language—nothing at all." At any rate we never put the word water in French on our bills of fare and there is another good John Bullish English word (or is it Scottish?)—porridge. That invariably appears at the head of the list at breakfast in every inn in the country in its native condition with no foreign nonsense. Indeed there was once a Swiss hotel-keeper who firmly believed that porridge was the English for menu. —London Times.

Holland is a small country both in area and in population. But in getting things done, Holland takes a back seat to no country, whatever its size. Hence it came as no surprise last week to read that The Netherlands has become the first European country to

and truly Christian people in the U.S. will yet become her salvation. You remember old Abraham standing on a hill overlooking Sodom and praying for the salvation of the city. "If fifty righteous men be there" and he came down to ten and God promised to spare the city for ten's sake. I am hoping that God will not only spare the U.S. for the sake of the Christians who are there, but that they will be the means of changing the whole current of her career for the better.

Let us hope for the very best for this great nation, our nearest neighbour. We believe that underneath the web of political manoeuvring the U.S. leaders are sincere and genuinely peace-minded. I am, Sir, etc. W. T. GREEN Stanley Bridge.

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