

THE GUARDIAN

Authorized as Second Class Mail Post Office Department, Ottawa. The Island Guardian Publishing Co. CIRCULATION

Total City Zone 3,765 Retail Trading Zone 8,451 All Others 826 Total Net Paid 13,046

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"The Strongest Memory is Weaker Than the Weakest Ink"

CHARLOTTETOWN WEDNESDAY, FEB. 14, 1951.

The Dairy Farmer Pinched

Mr. Gilbert McMillan, president of the Dairy Farmers of Canada, posed a question for urban consumers of farm products when he spoke to the Rotary Club in Ottawa recently.

Mr. McMillan used the word "balance" to illustrate his point, and it was his contention that urban wages, hours of work and costs generally, were today out of balance with farm prices for milk.

"Mr. McMillan," says the Ottawa Journal, "was, of course, pleading the cause of one group, a cause not very popular in consumer circles these days.

"In the controversy over milk prices one pint is often lost sight of. Economies may be possible, in delivery costs, one of the larger cost items in putting a bottle of milk on the consumer's doorstep.

"Meanwhile the dairy farmer is trying to settle matters in his own way. He is producing less milk, going into other lines of farming or, worse still, abandoning his farm and moving into the towns and cities for the high wages and shorter hours now available.

"So far nobody has come up with a solution pleasing to either the dairy farmer or the people who must purchase his products."

Arrest For Debt

It must come somewhat as a surprise to many to realize that arrest and imprisonment for debt are still possible in this Province. In some cases, notably where the debtor is a non-resident, it is not even necessary to apply for a judge's order before having the High Sheriff seize the body of the debtor as security for payment.

Undoubtedly Capias proceedings were kept on the statute book in 1939 when it was being consolidated only in order to provide an extraordinary remedy to cope with cases of deliberate fraud by keeping the debtor within jurisdiction.

The provisions of the Bailable Proceedings Act, however, are wide and it is not in accord with modern ideas of the relative sanctity of personal rights and property rights that being in debt should expose the individual to arbitrary deprivation of personal liberty.

Battle For Better Living

Britain today, and for years past, has carried an exceptionally heavy personal income tax, which takes as much as 95 cents out of every dollar of income from well-to-do people. Government revenue from personal income tax, therefore, is high. Nearly one-third of total income tax revenue goes to pay consumer food subsidies, which amount to some 246 million pounds per year on home-produced food and on imported food a further 164 million pounds.

These facts were presented some time ago to the Farmers' Club in London, by Sir James Turner, President of the National Farmers' Union of England and

Wales. Sir James was discussing what he called Britain's "battle for better living." He was urging producer marketing schemes, which he believed to be the best method of cutting down the margin between producers' and consumers' prices, thus reducing the burden of consumer subsidies.

As reported in The Farming News, Sir James believed that a full use of British agricultural resources would result in increasing home production of carcass meat by one-third to one-half. Increasing the average milk production per cow from 6,000 to 7,000 pounds per year, would produce an additional 3.75 billion pounds of milk without any increase in the number of cows.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Feast of St. Valentine.

A City Beautification Scheme is the right thing in the right place, at the right time.

On this day, to tiny tots and silvered brows, the all-important question is, "Will you be my Valentine?"

The Netherland immigration delegation takes its leave today to be succeeded, by it hoped, by land-loving Dutch families.

In the city street traffic would benefit greatly were the snow from the side of the streets shovelled onto the centre.

Many otherwise uninsurable ex-servicemen have their last opportunity this year to apply for veterans insurance, the deadline being six years after discharge.

Probably wasted were the feverish efforts of a few weeks ago to persuade a conquering Red China to call a halt to operations in Korea. The same efforts tried to coincide with severe Chinese losses might bring more favorable reaction.

The Department of National Health and Welfare has released a number of "howlers" culled from correspondence received in connection with child allowances. Its English counterpart probably shows greater maturity in making public the boners perpetrated by officialdom itself.

In union is strength, that is in part why the Business Women's Club made such a favourable impression on the City Council with their brief. The Councillors knew all about the things contained in the brief, but it had never occurred to them to put them before the Council to be made effective. It was suggested that the recommendations might well be read over once every year as a timely reminder.

Captain James Cook, English navigator and discoverer, died this date 1778. He entered the Navy in 1755, and thirteen years later sailed as a lieutenant on the H. M. S. Endeavour on a voyage of discovery in the South Pacific. This was the first of three such voyages in each of which he added geographical knowledge to the powers-that-be. He was murdered in Hawaii on his way home from his last expedition.

An awful lot of travelling is done nowadays in politics, business and sport, and it is questionable if any more is obtainable from it than in the old days when the ends aimed at were reached by the old fashioned method of correspondence. People do not write letters nowadays: they telephone, or slip into a train or airplane and hold personal interviews, all adding to the cost, but saving considerable time and bother. But it means more help and more expense for the time being.

A certain young Montrealer would be behind prison bars today were it not for the quality of a friendship, says The Gazette. Because he was dark-complexioned he was identified in complete good faith as the man who had assaulted a member of a religious order there. Despite denials, which were of no avail, he was headed for prison. His friend, however, had not lost faith, and set out to do a little sleuthing on his own. Through devious means he established contact with a stool-pigeon who claimed to know a man who had boasted of the crime. He ran down the criminal, and persuaded police, who felt it was a waste of time, to bring him in. When the second man was placed in the headquarters line-up, members of the religious order withdrew their first identification, and pinned guilt on the second man. He confessed, was tried, and is now in prison. His only resemblance to the other was a dark complexion which would have meant years behind bars for an innocent man had it not been for the faith of a friend.

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.

POTATO MARKETING

Sir,—"Orderly Marketing" is a pleasant sounding phrase that has been used by the Federation of Agriculture as one of the cure-alls to insure growers high prices for their potatoes.

Upon analysis, the phrase has no direct bearing on the conditions which govern the price paid here or elsewhere for potatoes.

It should be remembered that Prince Edward Island grows about 2 per cent of the potatoes grown in North America, and our volume has hardly any bearing on the net prices we receive.

We raised the crop of 1949. Prince Edward Island shipped about 12,000 carloads of potatoes. At present it is estimated that the crop of 1950 will total 8,000 cars, yet the net price so far is much lower than the previous year.

The factor which controlled the price on the Atlantic seaboard for the past two years is the large volume of potatoes (62,840,000 bushels) grown in Long Island, New York and Pennsylvania.

As long as these areas were selling for \$1.00 per cwt. FOB cars and trucks within short trucking distance of the main consuming areas, it was impossible for us to move any quantity of potatoes to the "orderly marketing" market, and thus our "orderly marketing" was entirely out of the question.

Our potatoes are required for food and seed in the volume and at the time the various areas want them. We are farther away from the consuming markets than any other major producing area.

We are not sure of the best locations. And so with some hesitation there was inaugurated the bookmobile. It has been a success beyond the expectations of the Library Board.

January was the first month that the bookmobile was tried out. It was stationed one day a week in outlying districts. There were more books circulated through the bookmobile for the month than in the south or southeast branch libraries.

The total library circulation for the month showed a large increase. It was the children, whose parents probably feared to have them travel so far to existing libraries, who took the chief advantage of the bookmobile, but older people are more and more using the travelling library. — (London Free Press).

THE RING ROT LEVY

Sir,—We note in your issue of February 13th certain allegations regarding the payment of Ring Rot Levy, signed by the Potato Dealers' Association per G. Elliott Full, President. We welcome this opportunity to place this question before the judgment of the potato growers of Prince Edward Island.

We have not paid all our levy for the 1949 crop year. The reason should not be difficult for these potato dealers to understand. The amount we owe is less than 10 per cent of the total owed by the members of the Potato Dealers' Association. When it became evident that so many Island dealers were going to shirk this obligation, our organization decided to withhold payment as a considered step in focusing attention upon this evasive discussion of responsibility to farmers and potato growers of P. E. I. Not wishing to go farther than this, and realizing that this producer organization would shortly be singled out for unfair criticism, we have paid all the levy for the 1950 crop year.

Now we do not propose to go into a lengthy discussion of grievances as to this Ring Rot tax, so, to settle this matter, we are pleased to submit a fair proposition to the Potato Dealers' Association. We shall be pleased to pay the amount of our balance owing—which, remember, is less than 10 per cent of the total unpaid balance of the Fund—just as soon as the members of the Potato Dealers' Association pay the other 90 per cent of the outstanding levy. We will go even farther than this. We are ready to post a cheque with the Marketing Board, which cheque shall be payable to the Ring Rot Fund just as soon as the members of the Potato Dealers' Association pay their outstanding levy.

If the President of the Potato Dealers' Association gets his members to pay their outstanding levy, then this matter is closed and settled; and there is no need for further ridiculous protestation through the press about "favoured and socialistic organizations" who do not pay their levy.

We have not mentioned any names, nor do we propose to do so; but we feel that the President of the Potato Dealers' Association has made an unprovoked attack upon Island Co-operative Services. We trust that this letter will show him the way to set his own house in order. As soon as he gets his members to pay Ring Rot Levy, then all of this much needed Fund will automatically be made available for the protection of the potato growers of P. E. I.

I am Sir, etc. JEROME O'BRIEN, Manager, Island Co-op Services, Charlottetown.

Old Charlottetown

(And P. E. I.)

FATHER MAILLARD

"It is impossible now to ascertain by whom the Micmacs of Prince Edward Island were first converted to the Christian faith. By one fact which the student of their history cannot fail to discover is that Rev. Father Maillard did more than any other to keep alive the holy flame kindled in their hearts by the first missionaries. With true apostolic charity he devoted himself to their welfare, lived amongst them, shared their privations, sympathized with them in their sorrows and participated in their joys. He mastered their language that he might instruct them in their own tongue, and after the lapse of more than a century, the effects of his discernible labours are still discernible amongst them.

"Yet perhaps no figure of Canadian history has received a greater share of silence than Father Maillard. No chiselled urn marks his last resting place, no sculptured marble nor imperishable brass records his virtues. He died at Halifax in 1762, and was laid to rest in a Protestant cemetery, as there was no burial place for Catholics in Halifax until years after his death."

—From "The Early History of the Catholic Church in Prince Edward Island," by Rev. John C. MacMillan, 1905.

The Age-Old Story

In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth... And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth. So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them... And God said, Behold, I have given you every herb bearing seed, which is upon the face of all the earth, and every tree, the which is the fruit of a tree yielding seed; to you it shall be for meat. And God saw every thing that he had made, and, behold, it was very good.

"My Heart Aches For You; Breaks For You, Etc. -"



Notes By The Way

An inventor claims he has perfected an automobile brake that will stop a car going 70 miles an hour in a distance of 20 feet. The claim may be valid, but we dislike thinking about how far it would take occupants of the front seat to stop and what condition they would be in. — Kingston Whig.

It was with some question as to its success that the London Public Library purchased a bookmobile and decided on the policy of bringing the library to the public. The city is growing and there are many districts far from either a main library or the branches. The Library Board did not have the funds to erect new libraries and was not sure of the best locations. And so with some hesitation there was inaugurated the bookmobile. It has been a success beyond the expectations of the Library Board.

We are, Sir, etc. POTATO DEALERS' ASSOCIATION, Charlottetown, Feb. 13, 1951.

The Poet's Corner

FROM THE CHURCH PORCH

Resort to sermons, but to prayers most; Praying's the end of preaching. O be drest. Stay not for th' other pin; why thou hast lost. A joy wondrous worlds. Thus hell doth jest. Away thy blessings, and extremely flout thee. Thy clothes being fast, but thy soul loose about thee...

Judge not the preacher; for he is thy judge; If thou mislike him, thou conceiv'st him not. God calleth preaching folly. Do not grudge. To pick out treasures from an earthen pot. The worst speak something good; if all want sense. God takes a text and preacheth patience! —George Herbert (1593-1633).

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Memoirs Of The Hon. A. E. Arsenault

Former Premier and Retired Justice Supreme Court of Prince Edward Island

On the formation of the Mathieson Government, I became a member without portfolio. The following composed the Government: Hon. John A. Mathieson, Premier and Attorney-General.

Hon. Murdoch MacKinnon, Commissioner of Agriculture. Hon. James McNeill, Commissioner of Public Works. Without Portfolio: Hon. John McLean, Scurie. Hon. John A. McDonald, Cardigan. Hon. Albert Prowse, Murray Harbour. Hon. W. S. Stewart, Charlottetown. Hon. Murdoch Kennedy, Breadalbane. Hon. A. E. Arsenault, Egmont Bay.

The first thing of major political importance undertaken by Mr. Mathieson after his name became Premier was the drawing up of a brief for presentation to the Borden Government in which arguments for additional subsidy were carefully prepared.

Premier Mathieson was accompanied to Ottawa by the Hon. John MacLean and myself. After a full presentation before the Cabinet, Mr. Mathieson asked that a select committee of the Privy Council be named to go into more intimate detail respecting Prince Edward Island's claims. Sir Robert Borden, who had led his Party to victory the year before, agreed to the proposal for the appointment of such a committee and named himself Sir George Foster. Mr. Thomas White, Hon. Mr. Pelletier, and possibly one other as members.

In the meantime, while we were waiting for a further conference, we spent our time in soliciting the favour of each member of the Government on behalf of our cause. I remember quite vividly that after an especially long interview with Sir George Foster, he put his arm over Mr. MacLean's shoulder as we were leaving his office and said, "John, my heart bleeds for Prince Edward Island." We felt much encouraged by those words for Sir George carried the reputation of being very cold and not easily moved. If he was so much in sympathy with our aims then we felt the others would be also.

Our conference with the Select Committee was a long one, but at the end of it we felt we had succeeded. The question that gave us the most concern now was, how much would we get? We had been in Ottawa for three weeks and each of us was beginning to think that he had made a nuisance of himself by his persistent lobbying. As we were leaving the Conference at its concluding session, Mr. Mathieson said to Sir Robert: "Well, Sir Robert, I remember quite vividly that after an especially long interview with Sir George Foster, he put his arm over Mr. MacLean's shoulder as we were leaving his office and said, 'John, my heart bleeds for Prince Edward Island.'" We felt much encouraged by those words for Sir George carried the reputation of being very cold and not easily moved. If he was so much in sympathy with our aims then we felt the others would be also.

Sir Robert, who appeared to be in unusually good spirits, said, "That reminds me of a story. A man gave a party one night; there was plenty of wine and plenty of the merriment that goes with it. But there was a man and his wife present who had no drink and who were more or less of a wet blanket on the party. Shortly after midnight, the wife said to the husband, 'John, this party is getting pretty gay; don't you think we had better go?' 'Yes,' replied John, 'let's go.' So they went to the host and, bidding him good night, said to him, 'We think that if you will excuse us, we shall go home.' To which the host replied, 'You can't leave any too damn soon to please me.'"

This story of Sir Robert's raised a great laugh with all present and in a jovial atmosphere we took our departure.

The result of the conference was an increase of \$100,000 to our yearly subsidy. Today, with our Provincial Government taking in millions and the Federal in billions, \$100,000 appears paltry. But in those days, when our total provincial revenue was less than \$600,000, an additional \$100,000 was a substantial sum to be added to the revenue of a small Province which had had yearly deficits for a long time.

We took occasion on this and subsequent visits to Ottawa to make other requests. Our telegraph communication with the mainland depended in those days on an old cable which frequently broke. Even without such disruptions, the service was poor. We pressed for a two-core cable on which a telephone circuit could be superimposed. We succeeded in getting the two-core cable and the agreement with the telegraph and telephone companies stipulated that, with respect to messages coming out of the cable, we should be considered as a part of the mainland with the result that no charge would be made for the messages so far as their nine miles over the cable across Northumberland Strait was concerned.

This was an important admission and was the means of establishing a precedent by which the Island would have some basis for claiming that ferry transportation across the Strait should also be free. I have contended for years that, with respect to all transportation across the Borden-Tormentine ferry route, we should be looked upon as forming a part of the mainland, and that since the Federal Government had conceded the point with respect to cable tolls, they should also concede it with respect to ferry transportation.

We also succeeded in establishing another precedent. Previous to this, all money voted by the Federal Government to the Provinces in aid of agriculture, had been distributed on a basis of population. We succeeded in having the Federal Government first allocate specific sums to 'Provincs and then distribute the remainder on a population basis. By this system we obtained more money than we had received under the old method of distribution.

Naturally, we as a Government were greatly interested in the proposed improved communication between the Island and the mainland which Sir Robert Borden had promised the people of Prince Edward Island during his 1911 political campaign. We soon saw that Sir Robert's promise had been more than political bait. An engineer was sent to the Island to make a survey with the object of recommending the place to establish a car ferry route. Upon his arrival, the engineer had an interview with Premier Mathieson at which I was present. Three routes were considered: Cape Traverse to Tormentine; Borden to Tormentine; and Summerside to Tormentine.

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