

THE GUARDIAN

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Commonwealth Conference

No plan or specific agreement came out of the Commonwealth Economic Conference which concluded Thursday after a two week session. None was expected. The Prime Ministers and other Commonwealth leaders, nevertheless, reached an understanding that each would follow policies that would make it as easy as possible for the others to conduct their trade and currency transactions.

It is this attitude of mind, of course, that is the real outcome of the conference. Blueprints there are none and probably could be none without the active participation of other countries, particularly the United States.

It is also reported unofficially that the Queen's royal style and title in this country will include the word "Canada" as it will include the particular name of each of the Commonwealth countries in its own usage.

Traffic Enforcement Index

In a booklet on "How to Promote Traffic Safety", issued by the Junior Chamber of Commerce of Canada, some interesting data is given as an aid to checking community progress or retrogression in the matter of highway safety.

In many large centres "ticket fixing" for traffic violations has become a racket, and the booklet shows how this problem is being dealt with by the triplet ticket system, the effectiveness of which is based on periodic audits of all summonses or tickets.

First Atomic Plant

Britain will beat the U. S. in building the first atom plant to supply commercial power to industry. According to the Wall Street Journal, the British plant will probably start going up within the next year.

atom experts in industry and government say. Most of the latter and many of the former agree that as a result U. S. commercial power production from atom fuels will lag behind British output for some time.

It will likely be four or five years before the British plant is finished and selling power. It will be a large undertaking—somewhere between 150,000 and 250,000 kilowatts of generating capacity.

Experts predict the British plant will supply commercial electric power at about one-and-a-half cents a kilowatt hour, which is competitive with conventional power plants being built these days in Britain.

The British plant will be a dual purpose atom plant. That is, it will make plutonium for sale to the British government for making atom bombs and it will, at the same time, produce electric power to sell commercially to British industry.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Tomorrow, third Sunday in Advent.

The necessity to dig ever deeper wells is a warning that the water table in this Province is steadily lowering. If the trend continues, as it will without reforestation, the greater part of our rainfall will vanish in the rapid run-off of streams and rivers.

With steel controls to be lifted at the end of the year there is one fewer obstacle between Charlottetown and its new Federal building. After that date, however, it will not be priority but aggressiveness that will determine what building is proceeded with.

Canadian Communists have wasted no time adopting the new line from Moscow. They are now stalwart upholders of individual liberty. Already they are making a great to-do about stiffer penalties for treason contained in the proposed Criminal Code revision.

There are disadvantages in living in such a high pressure community as Summerside. Postal authorities have still failed to cope with the situation. Box holders continue to be understandably annoyed when they open their post office box only to have the pressure send their mail flying back in with the unsorted mail.

With a membership of 1,300 out of some 10,000 veterans, Island branches of the Canadian Legion have a record of public service of which they can be justifiably proud. How much more they could accomplish for their communities and veterans generally if larger numbers took an active part should be an incentive for active recruiting by all present members and voluntary participation by those who are not directly approached.

Dr. Samuel Johnson, the subject of Boswell's celebrated biography, died this date 1784. A sound classical scholar, he reported Parliament, contributed to magazines, published the "Rambler" and spent eight years on his dictionary.

With Christmas looming ahead BBC reporter Valentine Selsey's mind turned to crackers, and he visited some of the firms producing them to find out where the idea originated.

He discovered that the cracker bon-bon, as it is still termed, was invented by a boy called Tom Smith who worked in a confectioner's shop. When Smith grew up he opened his own shop and later visited Paris where he discovered the bon-bon, a sweet in a wrapping which he introduced to England with immediate success.

Manasseh was twelve years old when he began to reign, and he reigned fifty and five years in Jerusalem; but did that which was evil in the sight of the Lord, like unto the abominations of the heathen, whom the Lord had cast out before the children of Israel.

Still Waiting For The Key



The Poet's Corner

MARTIN'S SUMMER This day is gentle as the touch of a butterfly's wing Or the last caress of a painter's brush. Tarnished with silver the poplars bend their heads Like grave Chinese courtiers: My oak-tree is bare as a deserted city. As Mohejo-daro. But my neighbor's still shakes its shock of crinkled leaves.

Old Charlottetown

The annual meeting of the Phoenix Cricket Club was held on Saturday evening at the office of Messrs. Davies, Sutherland & Weeks. The meeting was the largest ever held, and bespoke for the club a good season's cricketing.

The Age-Old Story

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YORKTON, Sask.—(CP)—John Timmerman, a Yorkton veteran of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, now is helping direct the round-up of Mau Mau fanatics in Kenya.

Gisborne's Submarine Cable

By Frank N. Walker, Toronto.

Distances and isolation seemed to disappear in the mind of the editor of "The Islander", of Charlottetown, P.E.I., when he wrote on September 17, 1952: "We are pleased to be enabled to announce to our readers that 330 bundles of telegraph wire arrived in this port on Thursday last in the bark 'Clasina' from Liverpool. This wire is intended to connect this Island with Cape Tormentine (New Brunswick) in the shape of a submarine telegraph."

The carrying of electric current along metallic wires had been a subject of armchair discussion for over 100 years before that time, but during the first half of that period, little progress was made because there was no reliable source of electricity. Although, the perfection of the battery in 1800 solved that problem for experimenters, it created another. The current was conducted successfully along wires for short distances, but as these were lengthened, it seemed to disappear before reaching the destination expected.

The Universities of Oxford and Cambridge evinced little interest in these proceedings, but institutional apathy could not stop the wheels of progress. Charles Wheatstone, a former violin maker, carried on his experiments in the basement of King's College, in the heart of London, while across the bridge on the south side of the Thames, at the East India Company's Technical College, William Sturgeon, a former shoemaker, was inventing the means of making his recently discovered electric magnet play the chief role in his creation of the dynamo.

The meeting place of these pioneers was the Society of Arts. It was there that means were discussed for preventing coquettish electric currents leaving the narrow path prepared for them to jump into the arms of any other metal object standing along the way. The East India Company was very helpful in providing material to be worked upon by these makers of commercial history.

The voyage lasted three years and touched at the Sandwich Islands as well as Hawaii, always with a keen eye for the trees capable of producing gutta percha and the possibility of finding varieties which could be cultivated in more temperate climates. They crossed the Pacific Ocean and landed on the west coast of Mexico. Gisborne walked across that country and returned to England by way of the Atlantic. He arrived back in England in 1845, but although the imports of gutta percha had increased during his absence, it was for that year only about two tons. But this was only the beginning. Inside of three years it

YOUR POSSESSIONS

The things you live with—your home, your business, your "stock in trade"—are all subject to loss through accident or circumstances beyond your control. For your own sense of security, you should learn how easily you can be protected. We will be glad of an opportunity to serve you.

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Notes By The Way

Something strange is going on in Calgary where, it is announced, a ten o'clock curfew will be enforced after December 1. Those of us who have watched with awe the gradual development of Calgary's rustic virility cannot but be amazed at this apparent effort to suck all these he-men into beddy-bay at a time of night when Vancouver weeklings are just limbering up for play.

Calgary is a ten o'clock town. Vancouver Sun. —The village of Lancaster is planning a vote on commercialized Sunday sports sometime in February. It leads us to wonder if the issue is understood. What sports do the people of Lancaster wish to have on Sunday, that they cannot have now? The desire to "keep the young people away from Quebec" on Sundays is commendable, but that implies a recreation program that has little connection with commercial Sunday sports.

was up to 1,500 tons and the year before Gisborne laid his first cable, it was reported as 15,000 tons. Gisborne left very shortly for Canada, accompanied with his brother Hartley. He purchased a piece of land near Montreal, probably intending to try and cultivate some of the species of gutta percha trees that had been discovered. He was not, however, to be allowed to lead a planter's life since in the previous year the first telegraph line had been established in the United States between Baltimore and Washington at a cost of \$30,000 to the Government.

The success of the venture had spread north like an epidemic of measles and some of the financiers in Montreal soon learned that they had an expert in their midst. Before the year was out, Gisborne was engaged by a group to build a line of telegraph from Toronto to Quebec City by way of Montreal. The task was physically a comparatively easy one since it followed highways for most of the route and the problem of bringing in material was not a major issue. The chief requisite was to have the guidance of someone who knew the then little understood laws of electrical transmission. The line was completed in 1846, (although a charter was not obtained until the following year), Gisborne was appointed Chief Operator.

There, at the age of 22, he had settled down at a steady salary for the rest of his life, but the creative adventurer is not contented to stay and enjoy the rough place he has made smooth. He looks for more rugged hills to level. Early in 1847, Gisborne accepted the position of Chief Engineer of the Telegraph Company that had obtained a charter, the first to be applied for in Canada, to build from Quebec City to the New Brunswick border with Halifax as its ultimate destination. The work involved cutting a path through bush most of the way, but the authorized portion was completed during the first summer and at the end of the year Gisborne was sent to negotiate with the governments of the Maritime Provinces for charters to fulfill the plan. As a diplomat he was remarkably successful and made many friends in high places.

In Fredericton, New Brunswick, he met Francis D. J. Smith, who was negotiating to bring a line of telegraph to Saint John from Portland, Maine, and a cooperation began that lasted for many years. At Halifax, the Honorable Joseph Howe immediately was so impressed by his visitor that he promised to have the government build the Nova Scotia portion of the line provided Gisborne would take the position of superintendent. This he agreed to do, but to leave him more freedom for the increasing number of his responsibilities, he appointed his brother as chief operator.

His friendship with Howe was life long and one of the last letters written by the venerable Maritimer was to Gisborne. We have Joseph Howe's word that during the summer of 1848, Gisborne unfolded a plan to the Nova Scotia Telegraph Commission for connecting all the Maritime Provinces with Newfoundland and ultimately with Iceland by telegraph. During the winter of 1849, he sur-

MINORITY GROUP The Huguenots were French Protestants of the 16th and 17th centuries.

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