

THE GUARDIAN

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CHARLOTTETOWN, TUESDAY, MARCH 16, 1948

In Czechoslovakia

At first sight the seizure of Czechoslovakia—the destruction of the last bridge between eastern Europe and the west—appears as a sign of Russian strength. The only democracy left behind the Iron Curtain was abolished in a matter of hours. Stalin succeeded even more easily than Hitler. But, comments a Washington correspondent, the U. S. State Department sees in these events elements of Russian weakness.

For two years Russia maintained Czechoslovakia as a kind of show piece, just as the Germans maintained Denmark during the war. It was said, and many Czechs seem to have believed, that Czechoslovakia was free to follow its own path and develop its own democratic system. But instead of turning to Russia and Communism, as the Politburo had hoped, the Czechs turned insistently toward the west.

The first effect of Russia's ploy is to drive the Marshall Plan through the United States Congress and, moreover, to assure new grants of frankly military aid to Greece and Turkey. When it is realized that the Congress hesitated for months last year to vote \$400,000,000 for Greece and Turkey and now is voting about \$9 billions for foreign aid of various sorts, the change in United States opinion, the hardening of a new U.S. foreign policy, becomes clear.

Mr. King Reprimanded

Saturday Night, usually favorable to Prime Minister Mackenzie King, takes him smartly to task for his wrong conception of the relations between the Government and the Speaker in the House of Commons. "I am here," said Mr. King recently, "to see that Parliamentary rules and practices are observed, and I intend to do so."

Striking Illustration

Nothing could be more striking than a picture which was recently published in the New York Times showing the hours of work a Soviet subject has to put in, in comparison with a Canadian or American, in order to obtain the common necessities of life. A pair of shoes, for example, costs a Communist 104 hours and 30 minutes work, while the citizen of this continent can obtain the same for the expenditure of only seven hours and 15 minutes.

Without doubt the tables could be constructed showing the difference in the rights and privileges enjoyed by the citizens of free countries as compared with those denied the people who are forced to live under totalitarian regimes. Such tables and charts, suggests an exchange, could provide positive teaching of the Canadian way of life. They should be prepared by authority and exhibited in every public place, from the schools to the railway stations, wherever the people congregate, urging with all the emphasis we used to propagate our war aims, the necessity there is to wage the war against subversion which is proving itself to be at our very doors.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Tomorrow St. Patrick's Day. The ill-advised policy of extremists in Palestine is bearing fruit. Jewish refugees are again on the move, out of the Holy Land.

A Nevada Senator advocates a return to the "hard cash era" as a boost to the mining industry. He should also be able to get the pocket making interests to back his proposals.

The B. I. S. stage their St. Patrick's play tomorrow and Thursday, in the Prince Edward Theatre, their choice being a first-class comedy, "Colleen's Step-Husband". Packed houses seem assured.

An industry that we do not hear much about these days—canned clam juice. In old Colonial days clam juice was given to fever patients instead of water.

Federal Estimates for next year provide \$7,750,000 assistance for freight charges on western feed grains as compared with \$18,000,000 this year, which would indicate that the Maritime farmer will be mulcted to that extent.

Senator Ian MacKenzie is to have the honorary degree of Doctor of Laws, and the Rev. Dr. George H. Donald, Montreal, President of the Pan-Presbyterian Alliance, will have the D.D. degree conferred upon them by their Alma Mater, Edinburgh University, on July 2.

There are no fewer than 18,000 Communist party members in this country, according to Superintendent J. P. Savoie of the Winnipeg R.C.M.P. That is an insignificant number for a political party but quite enough trouble-makers to keep the country in turmoil if not checked.

Edward Clodd, English writer on folk-lore, myth, evolution, psychology, etc., died this date 1930; was twice president of the Folk-Lore Society; was a close personal friend of George Meredith of whom he wrote an appreciation; his works include Childhood of the World, Myths and Dreams, Story of Primitive Man, Story of the Alphabet, and Animism.

It is about time the post of Minister of Fisheries was treated as of importance in itself and not merely used for breaking in junior cabinet ministers or providing temporary employment for others. There are certainly sufficient problems confronting the industry to fully occupy a first rate administrator.

A psychiatrist is reported to have stated in Montreal recently that group treatment of emotional problems cured a four year old child who could not bear to be separated from its parents and would speak only to its mother. "The mother, however, is still under treatment." Psychiatrist would seem to be upon the right track.

The London Spectator publishes an illuminating cable of April 24th, 1941 from the German Naval Attaché at Moscow to the Naval High Command: "According to the Counsellor of the Italian Embassy, the British Ambassador (Sir Stafford Cripps) predicts June 22nd as the day of the outbreak of war." How did he know? Janus supplies the answer. June 22nd was the date on which Napoleon began his march on Moscow.

Our entry into European affairs is reflected in the growth of Canada's diplomatic services in a \$1,000,000 increase in the appropriation for representation abroad. Estimates for the External Affairs Department show \$5,083,082 set aside for diplomatic services abroad, including salaries of high commissioners, ambassadors, secretaries and staff, compared with \$4,008,108 in the 1947-48 fiscal year, a jump of \$1,074,974.

Nearly 400,000 beneficiaries will be affected by changes in the amendments to the Pension Act submitted to the House by Veterans' Affairs Minister Milton Gregg. After the brief debate the measure was given second reading and referred to a special committee. Before its second reading was approved, opposition members declared that because of the high cost of living the proposed increase in the basic rate of pension of 16 per cent was not enough, that the increase should not be less than 25 per cent.

Unless the democratic nations of the world take quick, united action against Communism, Europe will fall within two to five years and the western hemisphere will be presented with a grave threat from five to eight years from now, Mr. Ernest F. Harris, Sun Life Assurance Company of Canada representative in China for 25 years, who recently returned from a visit to the European continent warned in an address in Montreal. Mr. Harris said that the Communists were prepared to make their next move in Italy. "When Italy falls Greece and Turkey will have no chance," he added.

Councillor C. H. Spracklin told Halifax County Council he believes it is going too far to deprive a man of his vote if he turns his property over to his wife. He said that under the Education Act a ratepayer and the wife of a ratepayer could vote but there was no provision for the husband of a ratepayer. If a man turned his property over to his wife he had to pay poll tax to vote. Said school inspector H. A. Weir, "I think that if a man has enough faith in his wife to turn his property over to her he might trust her to do his voting for him."

-Notes By The Way-

A girl does not mind riding in a car with no clutch if the driver has one. — Brandon Sun.

A philosopher declares civilization is a joke. We wish he would tell us what's funny about it. — Kingston Whig-Standard.

To ridicule the beliefs of others is the common way of saying: "They aren't as smart as I am." — Victoria Times.

Two lawyers and an accountant serving the Parliamentary committee on prices draw \$125 each a day, plus living allowances. The public will be glad to know that they at least, have found a way to beat the high cost of living. — Windsor Daily Star.

A boy of nine hoarded 561 sticks of bubble gum at Goshen, Indiana, over a period of several months. When the Salvation Army appeared came for self-denial in Lent, he sent in the 561 pieces, "four poor boys and girls in forin lands." If all boys and girls hoarded all the messy supply and sent all of it to foreign parts, many unsympathetic grown-ups would be very pleased. — Fort William Times-Journal.

It is a cherished belief among women that men have funny legs. If, for any reason, a man has to expose his legs, there are always a few women who seize the opportunity for contemptuous sniggering. And yet we have never been able to see why men's legs are, upon the average, any funnier than women's legs. The exceptional feminine leg is a thing of beauty, but the average article is nothing special. The male leg has its own rugged appeal. — Peterborough Examiner.

Uncle Sam is beginning to understand how Papa Dionne must have felt. His bumper crop of young Americans since 1940, increasing the national family to 144 million, is more than he counted on. The 26 million born in the past seven years were 11 million more than expected. Last year more blessed events arrived in this country than ever before—3,370,000. This year doesn't show any promise of a let up. The marriage rate is still running high—nearly two million in 1947, a one-third increase over prewar. Our huge national family has tremendous implications, for it means there will be more growing children to provide for in the next 10 or 15 years, than ever before. — Minneapolis Star.

When we dine in a cafe, the part of inflation that irks us most is not so much the increased figures on the right-hand side of the menu, but the fact that a plateful of smelt has shrunk from seven to five fish, half-a-dozen corns to a few, and a four-and-a-half-cent fragment, hors d'oeuvres come in tins instead of quartets, and a serving of olives shows an alarming drop from the census of 1941. The only bright spot in this shrinkage is eggs. Bacon and eggs are still bacon and eggs, and as long as two remains a pair, we don't see how even the most subtle restaurateur could reduce the traditional quota and still advertise his henfruit in the plural. — Windsor Star.

Human nature is odd. Some people who would never dream of cheating at cards or in business think nothing of cheating traffic laws. They will, when they think they can "get away with it," drive past stop signs without stopping, step on the accelerator because they see others doing it, ignore railway warning signals, infringe local traffic regulations and indulge in various other foolhardy actions, just because they do not see a police officer in the vicinity. This condition is not peculiar to Brantford by any means. This Ontario Department of Highways says it is generally observable, and altogether too prevalent: Such carelessness, or "cheating" as the department more bluntly calls it, accounts for a considerable part of the deplorably high toll of traffic injuries and fatalities week after week. The way to win in this game against maiming or death, the department emphasizes, is to respect all traffic laws and safety regulations. — Brantford Express.

The man who first described our industrial civilization as "machine-dominated" has my envy and contempt; he can never have tried to nursemaid an electric refrigerator back from a period of back-tapper and ill health. Machinery, I am now certain, is the weakest pillar in the structure of our society, and without constant repair it would collapse altogether. It appears to be one of the purposes of modern design to make the object unrepairable in the home. The American boy who the screwdriver who took clocks apart and couldn't get them together again will have to be replaced by a boy with a blowtorch trying to break through the seamless shell. The steam iron is a molded unit, the screws that hold together recent toasters are countersunk beyond the reach of any available screwdriver, and the cord of the electric heater wears thin at a point where the terminal connections are totally inaccessible. The man from the vacuum cleaner company can't even repair call, pronounces the new floor model loss for ever, and offers you a bargain rate on a turn-in against an even newer model. — Harper's Magazine.

PUBLIC FORUM

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

A RUM SHOP ON WATER STREET

Sir,—I read with much pleasure the letter by "Teetotaler" in a recent issue where he brings to our notice how the liquor interests are manipulating things in British Columbia.

How long will it be before we will have similar conditions in this Province? Why, even now we are to have a rum shop on Water Street in one of the busiest sections of the town.

The said shop, it is rumored, is to be a beautiful brick front and be more commodious with a large entrance at front and rear. In this imposing edifice the Powers plan to sell more rum to make more drunken drivers and law breakers who will pay more fines and more liquor to make more drunken drivers and law breakers. A vicious circle to wring blood money from ruined lives and broken homes.

We are told there is to be a vote taken on the liquor question in the near future. If this is true, why all the alterations and improvements on this new site? It looks very much as if our Farmer has his mind made up on this question already and those of us who supported him and thought he would take a stand against more liquor being sold in the Province, are going to find ourselves "sold down the river."

I am, Sir, etc. SUMMERSIDE.

SCHOOL CURRICULUM

Sir,—In connection with Mr. Malcolm MacKenzie's address on the subject of our present school curriculum, I say that the curriculum of our present schools for a long time, and in recent years has been the subject of wide discussion.

In P.E.I. it is discouraging to note that a very small percentage of our pupils continue their schooling beyond Grade X.

As a result of unsatisfactory conditions, Mr. MacKenzie makes the point that a more flexible course of studies should be adopted which would conform more to present day conditions in a complex and changing order of society.

In determining such a curriculum, he states that we must ask ourselves "What should a program of education do for our boys and girls?" The general answer would be, a program whereby our children would be prepared not only to make a living but to take their place as worthy and public spirited citizens in the community.

Mr. MacKenzie presented statistics to show how our present curriculum falls far short of this high aim, more especially in the one-roomed country schools where our ill adjusted program presents a very high insurmountable problem for the teacher.

It is a recognizable fact that a boy or girl who plans to remain on the farm or take up a trade learns different high school training than those preparing for one of the professions.

With this in mind, our problem on P.E.I. seems to be that of providing a varied type of educational service which would be at once efficient and within the limits of reason from the standpoint of cost.

CITY SCHOOL CONDITIONS

Sir,—In a recent address, Mrs. Gordon MacDonald stated that the cost of a Composite High School building investigated by the Charlottetown School Board, is such a school necessary? Let us judge by our present City school conditions. Two serious problems seem evident. (1) Overcrowded schools. (2) The need of an up to date high school programme.

To illustrate the overcrowding, a typical city school has 17 classrooms in use with over 500 pupils when its normal capacity is 13 classrooms and approximately 350 pupils. Pupils use improvised basement and fourth floor classrooms, which do not always assure proper heat and ventilation. Proper attention to library facilities has been out of the question in such limited quarters.

Such overcrowding promises to be worse due to the increased birth rate following the many war marriages and because family allowance is only payable on school attendance.

After World War I somewhat a similar problem of overcrowding was solved by adding annexes to the 4 city public schools. Today it would not seem practical to add more extensions to the present school buildings.

Moreover we have that second serious problem to solve today, the need of an up to date high school programme to serve the large number of pupils all obliged by law now to attend school until 16 years of age. If the more practical minded pupils are not to waste their time we must provide high school technical courses as well as the college preparatory course.

Suggested courses for the Composite High School are Academic, Industrial, Commerce, Agriculture and Home Economics. Surely many girls of our community could profit from a more practical high school course, which would include sewing, cooking and household management.

In the past our one high school course the academic, served our needs well. A high school education then seemed mainly a necessity

for those who entered the professions. Today high school graduation is a must also for those who would enter technical, agricultural or commercial occupations. Yet only 10 per cent of our Island youth complete high school under our present one tracked educational system.

Overcrowding points to the urgency of a new school in Charlottetown. A Composite High School would also solve our second problem, the need of an up to date high school programme.

The Charlottetown Composite High School project has been endorsed by the Charlottetown Legion, the Charlottetown Board of Trade, the School Improvement League, a large and representative citizens meeting voted unanimously that a Charlottetown Composite High School be established at the earliest possible moment.

Leading Canadian Educationalists have approved the Composite High School which operates successfully in every other Canadian Province. Let us bring our Province in line with the rest of Canada by establishing a Charlottetown Composite High School.

We are, Sir, etc. THE CHARLOTTETOWN IMPROVEMENT LEAGUE.

OUR FISHERIES

Sir,—An editorial appearing in the Charlottetown Guardian of March 14th on "The Fisheries Outlook" tends to create a false impression on what the East Coast Canned Fish Industry is trying to do. Some of the statements made do not show too great an understanding of the situation nor a comprehensive reading of current news on fisheries.

Without a doubt, the East (and West) coast fish industry is in a difficult position at the present time because of the fact that many historical markets cannot be supplied because of restrictions arising out of the so called dollar situation. Let it not be forgotten that the fish is in demand. Canned P. E. I. fish is wanted in some export markets but importing countries have not the exchange with which to purchase. Therefore this is hardly a situation that should be laid at the door of the fish industry.

The editor of the Patriot should know that two years ago there was an Act put through the Federal House known as the Fisheries Prices Support Act which gave power to a board to buy and sell fish, if and when the need arose. This is not a war measure and is similar to another Act to assist agriculture, whereby the editor's assistance to our fishermen when all kinds of aid and subsidies have been given to agriculture, if the editor would do away with the Fisheries Prices Support Board and let our fishing industry "sell its output", then, by the same token he should recommend the doing away with the Agriculture Support Board, who last year, assisted our potato growers and fox ranchers.

As to the reference that purchases under the Marshall Plan (or any plan) should include canned lobster for the starving people of Europe, this is too absurd. Such a request has never so much as been thought of by the fishing industry of P. E. I. The industry does however, seek a just approach, which, other fish products, which, while of some basic products to be purchased under the Marshall Plan, do contain true nutritive value in their proteins, minerals etc.

The problems on the home market are being understood and plans are laid for advertising fish products, which advertising has not yet been assisted by the Government. For better transportation and equipment which does not exist on P. E. I. for fish products and is still inadequate for quality shipments of certain types of fish to Western Canada. The statement that "the demand in our own country is far greater than the supply" is most false.

Being investigated by the Charlottetown School Board, is such a school necessary? Let us judge by our present City school conditions. Two serious problems seem evident. (1) Overcrowded schools. (2) The need of an up to date high school programme.

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Lenten Meditations (From The Times) BALANCED PERSONALITY The term "religious" is usually applied either to those who belong to religious orders or to those who pay much attention to religious observances. The basis of true religion is prayer and worship, and no religion is worthy of the name which does not find its inspiration and power through fellowship with God.

The teaching of our Lord is characterized by a strongly ethical element; He is always concerned about man's conduct. He makes it clear that unless the life of devotion leads to a life of obedience and service something essential in the inner life is lacking. From his teaching and his life it would be difficult to justify that concentration upon religious experience which either ignores its ethical demands or makes it an end in itself.

In so far as the Christian grasps this dual aspect, his religion, which is yet only one aspect, he is learning to tread the path which alone can lead to that knowledge of God which is at once the root of the life of obedience and the secret of spiritual achievement.

TIME IS ON THEIR SIDE I think the busy little bee intends sit-sitting you and me. I think the bee and snake and fawn And humming bird and mastodon Content that we are bankrupt now. Do not intend to make a row; Intend to wait and wait and wait. Like players with an inside straight. Blind Time is in their game; and after

Old Charlottetown (And P. E. I.) In the recent dismantling of the old barn at the rear of the Clifton House, Summerside, it was revealed, when the shingles were removed, that at some time previously to the walls being shingled the west end of the barn had been used for bill-board purposes. Remnants of old posters announcing auctions, sheriff's sales, etc., were uncovered. One issue of the last issue of the "Pioneer" advertised the recent arrival of general merchandise, bearing the date—1868. Among the posters was one dated June 26, 1868, of an auction sale bearing the imprint of the Journal Publishing Company, and another calling for tenders for sinking of wells, printed by Bertram. (The latter had set up a printing office in Summerside in 1858.) In company with Mr. Bernard, had begun publication of "The Summerside Journal and Western Pioneer"—the first newspaper published in Prince County.)

WELCOMES PARTRIDGES SAINT JOHN, N. B. — (CP) — Harrison Nason, a carpenter, has adopted a flock of Hungarian partridge which settled down near his waterfront shed here. Nason feeds his visitors daily. A tip to hunters: there is no open season on Hungarian partridge in New Brunswick.

ELECTROUTE WHALES MONTREAL — (CP) — Electric cutting whales instead of shooting with harpoons was advocated by Dr. Harry Scott, Seattle, surgeon who served on an Antarctic whaling expedition, before a group of McGill University students of Harpooning is needlessly cruel and causes a loss of thousands of tons of badly needed whale meat annually, he said.