

THE GUARDIAN

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CHARLOTTETOWN, THURSDAY, JUNE 2, 1949

A Great Picture

Seldom, if ever, have dramatic genius and the resources of the motion picture industry been so perfectly mated as in Sir Laurence Olivier's magnificent film version of Shakespeare's Hamlet, which is now showing in the Prince Edward Theatre.

One knows not where to begin in commending a picture of this kind — the eye takes in so much, the ear so much more. The players are superbly cast. The costumes, like the stark majestic settings, appear to be timeless, representing a blending of the styles of many periods in history.

Hamlet depicts the agonies of a strong and sensitive spirit surrounded by corruption and depravity, and in the central character we have the most modern of all Shakespeare's creations. He has puzzled pedants for three hundred years, but his words come home to men's bosoms in a singularly personal fashion.

No "happy ending" here, as in the modern picture plot; but tragedy of this kind has a nobler function to perform. It should, if we are responsive to its message, purge us of our own little infirmities, or at any rate give us a fuller understanding of the human heart.

Federation At Fault

In a communication received from the regional public relations representative of the Canadian National Railway, we are informed that the tour of the world agriculturists, who recently visited Nova Scotia and New Brunswick but not Prince Edward Island via the C. N. R. was arranged, not by the Railway, but by the Canadian Federation of Agriculture, Ottawa.

Fifth Wheel To Democracy

With the Federal election only a matter of weeks away, the pollsters, amateur and professional, are hard at it. Some of them go so far as to predict how many seats will be won by each party, and, given any sort of encouragement, will forecast the debates in the new Parliament down to the last comma.

"When Soviet Russia holds an election there is absolutely no doubt that Uncle Joe and his party are going to be swept back into office. Thus Dr. Gallup, who flunked so horribly in the last U. S. election, could redeem himself in Russia with very little trouble but with no cause for patting himself on the back.

the price of cabbages is none of his business. "It would not be correct to say that without polls there is no democracy. But certainly without democracy there can be no polls that mean anything."

EDITORIAL NOTES

Twenty-six more days till the election.

Annual inspection for cadet corps of city schools today.

Another political scandal is brewing at Washington, involving defence portfolio holders, including Air Force personnel.

We are in on the Marshall Plan. The Economic Co-operation Administration authorized \$691,000 of aid to France to buy manufactured commodities and industrial materials from Canada.

What with Boy Scouts, Sea Cadets, Military Cadets, and Y.M.C.A. campers, our "rising hopes" should be well-looked after physically this summer.

Finals in the Provincial Drama Festival are being held in Summerside tonight and Friday. Its conjunction with the Junior Farmers' public speaking competition should provide interesting contrast.

Prime Minister St. Laurent's desire to make "devaluation" or "no devaluation" an election issue seems to ignore an old liberal tradition of allowing the rate of exchange to be fixed by supply and demand.

The spread of "unofficial" dock and rail strikes in Britain is a headache all around. The employer, i. e. the Labour government, has no union leaders with whom to negotiate and the strikers have no disinterested third party to whom to appeal.

Montreal, Toronto and New York stock exchanges have started their new summer schedule of Saturday holidays. They will continue to remain closed week-ends through Sept. 24, opening again on Oct. 1. Exceptions to Saturday closings are the grain markets. On Monday, June 6, Canadian markets, Montreal and Toronto, will observe the King's Birthday, both exchanges being closed.

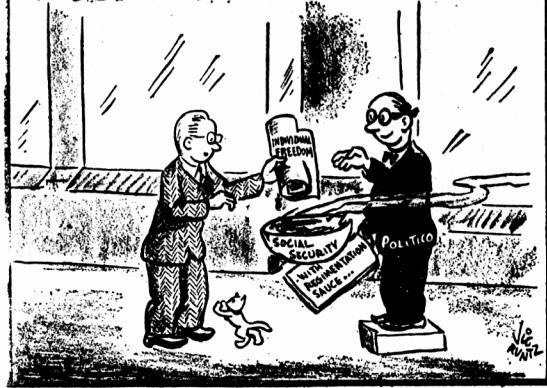
Emperor Maximilian of Mexico executed this date 1867. Mexico threw off the Spanish yoke in 1822 when her independence was secured; and a Federal Republic was established in 1824. A European force landed in 1862 to secure redress for wrongs done to foreigners. French troops entered the capital in 1864 and proclaimed an empire under Maximilian of Austria. The Mexicans resented this intrusion on their sovereignty, rose in revolt, shot Maximilian, and restored the republican form of government.

Rt. Hon. Mr. Howe, a United States engineer who became a Canadian cabinet minister, told the graduating class of McGill engineering students that the development in the future of Canada was "almost beyond imagination." That field, he said, was in atomic energy, over which "military implications" have thrown a "temporary cloud of secrecy." While "the international situation may delay progress temporarily, the day will surely come," he said, "when the peaceful use and application of this new, and fantastically large source of energy from atoms will certainly open up a new and potentially great field of engineering, technology, industry and opportunity." Canada is in the "front line of this the most exciting scientific venture of all times," Mr. Howe said. The task will become "one of exploiting, for the use and benefit of mankind, the potentials for good that abide in the application of science."

There will be three elections this month, Nova Scotia on the 9th, British Columbia on the 15th, and the Federal on 27th. A total of 139 candidates seek election in the British Columbia election. The number is eight less than the record 147 of the 1945 vote. Combined Liberal and Progressive Conservative candidates, whose coalition formed the last Government, are contesting each of the 48 seats open in the 41 ridings. In perhaps their strongest bid for power yet in B.C., the C.C.F. also have 48. They ran the same number in 1945. For the Social Credit, any victory will be a gain since they had no representation in the Legislature dissolved last April and in which coalitionists had 36 seats to 11 for the C.C.F. and one for Labor. The party has put 16 candidates into the field while the Union of Electors—an off-shoot—has named 12 independently. There are eight individual independents, two Labor Progressives, one People's Party, one People's Party of B. C., one straight Conservative, one Socialist Labor and one Labor.

Old age pensions boost is still a great vote-catcher. Health Minister Martin has completed agreements extending the new \$40 rate to pensioners in Manitoba, Nova Scotia and Quebec, effective from May 1 providing for payment on the basic pension of \$40, a month authorized by Parliament a few weeks ago. British Columbia, Alberta and Ontario previously agreed to the increase and negotiations are being carried on with Saskatchewan and Newfoundland, but no dicker has been made with Prince Edward Island. The new agreements will increase to more than \$100,000,000 annual federal expenditures under the Old-Age Pensions Act. The new rate will mean the federal share of pensions in Nova Scotia will be increased this fiscal year by about \$1,400,000; in Manitoba by about \$1,200,000; and in Quebec by about \$2,200,000. Under the terms of the Old-Age Pensions Act, the Federal Government pays 75 per cent of the basic pension, with provinces paying the remaining 25 per cent.

Biblical Times -- Now Today?



Notes From Another Island

By "Anson"

LONDON, England: During the last few years we have become very conscious of "targets" over here. The Government evidently believe that human beings work harder if they are striving to reach some tangible mark, or target. Of course, we all know, the ultimate aim is to have plenty of everything we need and reasonable amounts of luxuries that we like to have occasionally, even if we don't really need them.

So far, so good, but that sort of objective is a bit hazy, so we have figures given to us by the Government in the belief that if we know what we are aiming at in terms of pounds, or tons, then we shall have a better idea of what we are after. So, year by year—or even month by month or week by week—the miners have a target for coal production; the steel workers have a target for their production; the textile industry has a target; the car in-

Old Charlottetown

(And P. E. I.)

INLAND MAILS

On May 1, 1927, the House of Assembly petitioned Lieutenant Governor Ready to take such steps as were necessary "to cause a Mail to be carried to Prince-Town, at least once a week in Summer, and once a fortnight in Winter, returning by Traveller's Rest (where a Post Master might be appointed) and from there by Bedouet and Tryon River to Charlotte-Town; and also that a like Mail be established to Three Rivers and to the East Point; and that your Excellency would be pleased to order such rules and regulations to be adopted, as to your Excellency may appear desirable, to forward so useful an object, by fixing a rate of postage, or otherwise—and the House will make good, in a future session, any expense attending the same." The House also expressed the opinion "that the inter-connection which will take place in consequence of this measure will greatly tend to encourage the desirable object of a settlement of the Towns of George-Town and Prince-Town."

The Inland Mails service was established in the following way: For mail to the several districts leaving Charlottetown on Wednesday, at 12 o'clock noon, in each week, the western and south-eastern carriers returning to town each Friday at noon and the eastern carrier on Saturday at noon. The schedule was as follows: Western Route: For the south side of New London, to Richard Bay, to the west side of New London, Cascumpe, Tignish and Malpeque, to Mr. Fowle, at George Beariste, Princetown; for St. Eleanor's, Miscouche and West Point, to John Townshend's, Traveller's Rest; for Bedouet, south side, William Baker's; for Cape Traverse, Crapaud and Tryon River, to James Bull-plitt's, Tryon.

Eastern route: For the head of Hillsboro River and Pracadie, to Mr. Lodge's; for St. Peter's, Morell and Savage Harbour, to James Burke's, near St. Peter's Mill; for Neufraze, East Point, etc., to Alexander McDonald's, St. Margaret's, Lot 44; for Bay Fortune, Rollo Bay, Souris and Grand River, to Mr. Aitken's, sr.; Bay Fortune, Vernon River, to J. R. Bourke's; for Three Rivers, to John Norton's.

Two pence postage was charged on each single letter, and one half-penny on newspapers. Some of those who had contracted for carrying the mails under-looked a coach service as well for the accommodation of passengers.

The Age-Old Story

He setteth the poor on high from affliction, and maketh his families, like a flock.

Notes By The Way

When we adopt the sensible community rule of planting two trees for every one that is cut down our streets will again start to become the delightfully shaded avenues they once were. — Brockville Recorder and Times.

Two-thirds of the human body is water, according to medical reports. Some smart guy will have it incorporated some day and sell stock. — Kitchener-Waterloo Record.

Fortunate the person who has a pair of orioles resident in his trees. Particularly a pair of Baltimore Orioles, which are a delight to eye and sound which, once they have chosen a tall tree for a nesting place, return to that tree year after year. Big elms are their favorites, in this part of the world, but they will on occasion adopt a tall old apple tree which has escaped the pruner's saw. The male is the showy one of the pair, with as fine a contrast of rich orange and gleaming black as you will see anywhere. The female is more yellow and grey, with brown on the back; for she has little time to preen and look beautiful. She

builds the amazing hammock-nest that hangs from the high, thin twigs. She broods the eggs. She does most of the work of feeding the fledglings. Her colorful mate stands by, which seems to be his role in life, and sings a not too tuneful song in a voice that one is sure was meant for melody. — New York Times.

There seems little doubt that Canada is headed for some form of health insurance, and that from the point of view at least of the great majority of the populace, the time is ripe for it. But this is no reason why we should rush into it without careful consideration of the factors involved. If there is any way of setting up and administering a medical insurance plan without the Government getting its whole hand in the pie, let us have it. — Winnipeg Free Press.

It's a matter of supply and demand, and maybe, fate takes a hand. Given the combination of a voice that charms, a ripe sense of humor, a self-deprecatory policy in public relations, a shrewd understanding of people, and an instinctive knowledge of applied psychology, and you click. That is, if you happen to be a radio entertainer, they pay you top money. For example, that persuasive voice known as Arthur Godfrey draws down \$440,514 per annum from C.B.S. Or, if—still with a voice that pleases—you can discuss the news as Lowell Thomas does with a mere \$180,229 annually. The quality entertainers have ever been nicely remunerated, because there are so few of them and so many who wish to be entertained. It is the natural law. Budding and potential entertainers can always set up these stars as targets. They kindle ambition and energize art, though to the uninitiated laymen it may seem like a lot of "cabbage" for a bunch of "corn." — London Free Press.



COCK-CROW AT ELSINORE

From "Hamlet"

Bernardo: It was about to speak when the crew. Horatio: And then it started like a guilty thing. Upon a fearful summons. I have heard, The cock, that is the trumpet to the morn, Doth with his lofty and shrill-sounding throat Awake the god of day; and at his warning, Whether in sea or fire, in earth or air, Th'extravagant and erring spirit hies To his confine. Marcellus: It faded on the crowing of the cock. Some say, that ever 'gainst that season comes Wherein our Saviour's birth is celebrated, The bird of dawnning spirit all the night long, which hath power to charm; So hallow'd and so gracious is the time. Horatio: So I have heard. But, look, the morn, in russet mantle clad, Walks o'er the dew of yon high eastern hill: Break we our watch up. —William Shakespeare.

week, quite happy to be "one of the boys" amongst their work mates. One baronet sits in a little hut on the edge of a coal-mining site, busily checking the contents of trucks as they go out; another has been found mixing drinks in a cocktail bar and not for his own consumption at that; and, I remember rightly, it was an earl who had his picture in the papers a few weeks ago as he sold fruit from a cart in the street. The coal-checking baronet, when asked about it, was said to have explained that he had a small private income but it didn't go very far these days, and so he had taken a job. Well, I don't know; perhaps he was being just a little modest about his private income. Perhaps he could have managed on it without working, but the fact that he—and the others—went quietly off to work when it apparently became necessary through one set of circumstances or another, might be helping to keep dead that gag of Hitler's about "decadent democracy," if you like to look at it that way.

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QUICKIES

BY KEN REYNOLDS



"I bought a life insurance policy when the agency's Guardian Want Ad said these come as standard equipment!"

Strange scene in a church.—On Sunday last at Fen Ditton, about two miles from Cambridge, in conformity with a sentence lately passed in the Arches Court by Sir Herbert Jenner Fust, a man named Edward Smith, a gardener and a village fiddler, was to stand and do penance in the parish church for having slandered the wife of the rector. Before the church doors were opened, about 3,000 people collected, and upon their entrance commenced an uproar which continued throughout the proceedings. Barges set upon the screens, pipes were smoked, dog-fights got up, the officiating clergyman was jeered and pelted with hassocks and other missiles, and the hero of the day vociferously cheered. In short the rector and his wife who were present, were made to do penance instead of the delinquent. The day for such punishment has evidently passed. — From the London Economist of May 12, 1949.

Jolly news for young and old—especially for those who are sold on the power of mind over matter—comes from two American scientists who are convinced that if you listen hard enough you can tell the difference between a male and female mosquito. This knocks off, in the irresistible march of science, one of the more irksome hazards of garden life. It is all-embracing. It tests ear, eye and nasal twitch; it will revive flagging conversations. For it seems that the male mosquito's sound is more broken than the female's. The scientist who has a more direct approach to her target; although one thing that will startle nature lovers is that in most cases the apparent pitch of the male is higher than the female of the species. (When bitten you can relax, for only the female bites.) That crude, unscientific whack that most people inflicted on mosquitos at its first exploratory tickle can now be replaced by a game of happily guessing whether it is a boy or a girl. Self-control will come easily and the mosquito helps itself there need be no limit to the exuberance of observers who caught the pitch and steadiness of the buzz. No one could possibly mind being stung under such auspices. — Hamilton Spectator.

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