

THE GUARDIAN

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"The Strongest Memory is Weaker Than the Weakest Ink."

CHARLOTTETOWN, MONDAY, JANUARY 26, 1948

Government And The Humanities

A writer in the London Spectator draws attention to a sentence which caught his eye in Sir Harold Butler's new book, Peace or Power, and which appeared to throw a flood of light on one aspect of international relationships. "The first Russian university," Mr. Butler observes, "was not founded till 1755."

The first colleges at Oxford and Cambridge were founded in 1264 and 1284, respectively, and in each case the university existed before the colleges. And many European universities, notably Bologna and Paris, were, of course, older than England's.

Game Wardens

Volunteer sportsmen have been doing good work recently in assisting our Island "Huns" to weather severe snow conditions, thereby supplementing the work of Game Wardens and other officials concerned in the matter of game conservation.

This measure provides for at least two Game Wardens in every school district. They cannot, of course, be expected to devote much of their time to this duty without remuneration, and it has been suggested, in the event of the Government making more adequate provision for collection of district school taxes, that a small amount be allocated to the above named members of the school boards to act in their Game Warden capacities.

Teaching Manners

The British Ministry of Labor is distributing a small book among its staff delicately pointing out the virtue of good manners and clear English in the writing of letters to the public and of departmental minutes, reports The Manchester Guardian.

"How much more welcome," suggests the booklet, "would be a letter in something like these terms: 'I have received your registration form and would like you, if possible, to come for an interview in the near future, any day between 11 and 12.'"

Mr. King's Masterstroke

Noted in these columns recently was the possibility that Prime Minister Mackenzie King might pull another rabbit out of the hat before he retires definitely from the political scene, and get himself redrafted for another term as leader. True, he has asked the Liberal Party to hold a national convention to select "a new leader," and had the speech been made by any other person than Mr. King, that would have meant outright relinquishment of office.

The Sydney Post-Record notes that the CBC news report on the night of the speech added no little to the confusion already created in Mr. King's speech, in flatly stating that "Mr. King announced his retirement and called a National Liberal Convention next summer to select a new leader." But that is not what Mr. King said, nor is he to be hurried off the stage in such summary fashion.

whether or not Mr. King actually wants to give up his post, and the natural reaction of his followers will be to string along with him until they find out. Thus Mr. King has achieved another quiet masterstroke. He has made it extremely difficult for any pretenders to office to take over his duties with a comfortable conscience, or without the harrowing thought that by so doing the party is being doomed to complete destruction.

EDITORIAL NOTES

oundation Day of Australia.

We are now experimenting on the use of whale meat as a feed for foxes. It should prove satisfactory. The Oxford crew trained on it in lieu of unobtainable beefsteak.

The generous response to the B. I. S. Fire Victims appeal is much appreciated, and to the credit of the community whose sympathy has been deeply aroused by the tragedy.

Now that we have higher prices for the farmer, price control for the consumer, and taken a crack at Soviet Russia, all that remains to be done before an election is to reduce taxes.

A welcome change in military regulations permits hospitalized servicemen who are considered "up-patients" to wear regular uniforms outside the hospital grounds. The many old soldiers who have been in the conspicuous hospital blue will appreciate the value of the change.

Charlottetown social service workers have been discussing means of co-ordinating their activities. The idea might well be extended to their financing. Adoption of the Community Chest or similar scheme would materially reduce the work of canvassing which always seems to fall on the same shoulders.

On page three of this issue is an invitation to citizens not only to show their interest in civic affairs, but to bring forward names of men who might possibly take a place in the Council. It is in the interest of all that there should be a contest in every ward, water commission and Mayoralty. The submission of a prospective candidate or candidates for any of these offices may not induce the man selected to nominate on February 4th, but should sufficient interest be indicated, it may be possible to convince him of his duty.

"From 'Messenger to Manager' is a fine record for Mr. J. M. Murlay now about to retire from C. N. R. Telegraphs on pension. His regime has been characterized by courtesy and expansion of service in the public interest. His successor, Mr. Fraser, has been trained in a good school, and may be counted on to maintain the high reputation of the local Telegraph Office established by the late Mr. T. C. James and developed by Mr. A. E. Morrison now retired and devoting his leisure to oil painting and other good work.

According to the Canadian Press Dr. T. Cuyler Young, Associate Professor of Persian Language and History at Princeton University, declares the United Nations' decision to partition Palestine was "morally indefensible," and "without doubt will lead to war in the Middle East." Dr. Young, who formerly was Public Affairs officer at the United States Embassy in Teheran, said in an address to the Canadian Club, Toronto, that division of the Holy Land into Arab and Jewish states is "politically impracticable."

"Chinese" Charles George Gordon, British soldier and administrator, died this date 1885. During the Taiping rebellion in 1860 he took command of some Chinese troops, trained them by European and American officers, till they became known as the "ever victorious"; the final suppression of the rebellion was due to his leadership. He refused any pecuniary rewards from the Chinese Emperor; on return to England was given command of the Royal Engineers, and devoted his sparetime to philanthropy. Later, was sent to the Sudan to organize the withdrawal of the Egyptian garrisons in danger owing to the Mahdi's rebellion; was shut up in Khartoum, and treacherously killed two days before the arrival of the Wolsley Relief Force: "I am quite happy, thank God, and, like Lawrence, I have tried to do my duty."—P.S. in his last letter from Khartoum.

Three years ago, on January 26, 1945, the 10th Infantry Brigade of the 4th Canadian Armoured Division launched at Kapelschever, in Holland, an attack which was to produce some of the bitterest fighting encountered by the Division in World War II. Object of the attack was to dislodge a stubborn force of German troops strongly entrenched on an island in the Maas River. Previous attacks by Polish troops and Commandos had failed to clear the position. The 4th Division's attack, known as Operation Elephant, was carried out by the Lincoln and Welland Regiment, The Algonquin Regiment, The Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders of Canada, The Lake Superior Regiment and supporting artillery and other formations. Conditions were anything but ideal and for days men engaged in the operation fought, lived and died in mud, snow and icy water as the battle raged over the dykes. To add to their discomfort, cold winter rain fell on the 29th and 30th, turning slit trenches into mudholes. The entire dyke was reported clear on January 31, and the battle which had lasted five days came to an end. Both sides suffered heavy casualties. Some 135 enemy dead were counted on the battlefield while others lay buried in the mud and in the water-filled foxholes in which they had died. Only 35 of the enemy were captured and later reports revealed that approximately 65 enemy wounded were evacuated.

Notes By The Way

The year 1947 was the third in succession to record an increase in the number of deaths from accidents in the United States. It is estimated that there were about 101,000 deaths from accidents in the year, or 2,000 more than in 1946. The 100,000 mark has been exceeded only four times before in the history of the country, namely, in 1934, 1936, 1937 and 1941. One bright spot in the accident picture for 1947 is a decrease in the number of fatalities from motor vehicle accidents. Deaths from this cause apparently dropped from about 33,700 in 1946 to around 32,500 in 1947. This reduction is all the more noteworthy inasmuch as it was accomplished despite an increased volume of motor vehicle traffic, which suggests that the recently intensified program to promote highway safety is producing concrete results. Each of the other major classes of accidents—home, occupational and public (other than motor vehicle)—showed an increase in deaths in 1947 as compared with 1946. Undoubtedly, the higher death toll from accidents in the home was due in part to the large number of children added to the population because of the record-breaking crop of babies born in recent years. — Metropolitan Life Bulletin.

Mr. Attlee told this story recently: An American drove with an Englishman to Hyde Park and listened to a speaker demanding the abolition of the Royal family, the church and the government. The American said: "I reckon they'll be pulling that fellow inside." But a policeman said: "Would you mind stopping the engine of your car? They can't hear the speaker." "This," said Mr. Attlee, "is probably the only country in the world where this could happen." — Reynolds News.

It is reported that Australian housing experts are investigating the possibility of reviving the ancient technique of building houses with walls of rammed earth, remarks The Niagara Falls Review. The method has been used to a limited scale in various areas in Australia. The Commonwealth Experimental Station at Ryde, New South Wales, is now working on plans to bring it into wider use. Special machinery has been devised to speed up production and reduce the amount of labor necessary. Tentative plans have been made to build a group of 100 of these houses in New South Wales.

There are comparatively few people in Soviet Russia aroused from their slumbers by a jingling telephone bell and a voice which demanded that a tax be needed right away. There are very few numbers rung in Soviet Russia, very few comrades apologize to other comrades for disturbing their slumber. The reason rests in the fact that there are very few comrades who have telephones. Canada ranks third among the world nations in number of telephones, having 16 for every hundred of population. The U. S. is in first position, with 22 for every 100 citizens, and Sweden is second with 18 for every 100. New Zealand and Switzerland tied in fourth place with 15. Soviet Russia has 1,500,000 telephones, according to statistics gathered by the American Telephone and Telegraph Company, and when set against that country's huge population, gives a ratio of .71 for every 100 of population. This can be more simply stated by saying that there are seven phones for every 1,000 Russians as against 160 for every 1,000 Canadians. The U. S. has more telephones than the rest of the world combined, and twice as many as the whole of Europe, including European and Asiatic Russia. Canada has more phones than South America and Africa combined, or more than Russia Poland and Czechoslovakia.

The amended coat-of-arms of the Duke of Edinburgh, issued by the College of Arms, would appear to settle any question of the Duke's status. Before a Buckingham Palace official stated, prior to the Royal wedding, that Philip Mountbatten would be a Prince, but would use the title of Duke of Edinburgh, there had been a great deal of speculation as to his future rank. Two features of his new arms established him as a Prince. One is the helmet which is shown full-faced (frontee in heraldic terminology—a distinction which is seen only in the arms of Princes of the Blood Royal. The heraldic helmets of Peers of lower rank are shown dexter (facing right). The second point of significance is the coronet. The design of this— with fleurs-de-lis and crosses— is alternated— is similar to that seen in the Duke of Gloucester's arms. Normally this denotes the younger son of a King. —London Daily Mail.

The enclosed article gives the course in alcohol in British Columbia schools, which goes into operation at the beginning of the next school term. With Prince Edward Island's growing ailments, and alcohol the treatment, it may be necessary to educate the public not to abuse the drug. As I am an Islander at present enjoying this wonderful climate—both summer and

PUBLIC FORUM

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

ABEGWEIT DESTRUCTIVENESS

Sir, — I have read with delight from The Guardian of January 16th the very splendid reference you have made in regard to the abuse to the "Abegweit" by certain uncouth people, and I do not believe these people are from the Island. The warning which you have given will no doubt result in much good, and it may save somebody from a bill of costs because we fully intend to prosecute. We have to resort to it for the protection of this ship which we are all so proud of.

I am, Sir, etc. J.P. JOHNSTON Vice-president and General Manager Canadian National Railways. Moncton, Jan. 24.

SKYE PIONEER EPISODE

Sir, — I was very interested by your "Old Charlottetown" column regarding the early Scottish settlers in The Guardian of January 13, 1948. You mentioned three ships that arrived in Charlottetown in 1803 with the Selkirk settlers, mostly from Skye. The writer attended the 100 years anniversary in 1903, of the landing of the settlers of the ship "Polly" and they were supposed to be near where the crowd gathered that day, near Halliday's Wharf, Orwell Bay.

I have been told that at one time on the voyage out, the ships were in a storm and one of the ships became separated and was chased by a British warship wanting recruits. My informant tells me that when they saw her coming, suspecting what she wanted, they signaled "Smallpox Aboard!" The Captain, whose name was Murchison, was supposed to have settled at Point Prim a few years after with his family. I would be very grateful if you could inform me as to the truth of this story. I am, Sir, etc. WILLIAM McLEOD Master Mariner Coughlan, B.C.

(MacQueen, whose "Skye Pioneers and The Island" is regarded as authoritative, makes no reference to this interesting episode. Perhaps some of our readers can oblige. — Ed. G.)

"ALL CANADIANS SHOULD FEED EUROPE"

Sir,—Farm forum people in the Maritimes were nearly unanimous in stating that we should see our food surpluses go to feeding Europe. But they put a few teeth in the deal. Firstly they stated that not only the Canadian people should stand the brunt of the gift, not the farmer alone. This could be accomplished through our Canadian Government, by having them make all purchases at a price above the cost of production, and we all share the cost through taxation. Or, if preferred, pay subsidies on all agricultural products for export.

Secondly, farmers in general considered we should accept more in goods from Britain and Europe rather than insisting on monetary exchange.

However, most forums confided that if the Marshall plan were to go through, a lot of our agricultural surplus troubles would be over.

The question of opening the American market for agricultural produce was the general subject. Approximately 90 of the reports indicated it would only benefit farmers temporarily, but would in the long run be disastrous. It would meet with opposition by the American farmer, the Canadian consumer and the European consumer. The latter, in the opinion of most groups, would likely have to pay a higher or standard and under present conditions severe hunger would likely be the inevitable result.

At farm forum meetings of January 19th Maritime people unanimously approved the adoption of a Dominion Marketing Act. Farmers should have the right they said, through organizations, to control the marketing of their own products and must have pending legislation in order to support their organizations. Unanimously also, they contended, that such a marketing scheme as proposed by the Canadian Federation of Agriculture was democratic and just.

To legislate for our rights is a democratic privilege as farmers and citizens, said the Newport forum in Prince Edward Island, which very well summarized the thoughts of their affiliated discussion groups. A summary of the effects as outlined by Maritime meetings is briefly, besides controlling inter-provincial and export trade such a Marketing Board would tend to automatically eliminate such unnecessary trading as the selling of B. C. apples in the Maritimes, would control speculation and exportation as well as encourage quality production.

I am, Sir, etc. L.P. MCISAAC Secretary Maritime Farm Forum.

EDUCATION IN ALCOHOL

Sir,—The enclosed article gives the course in alcohol in British Columbia schools, which goes into operation at the beginning of the next school term. With Prince Edward Island's growing ailments, and alcohol the treatment, it may be necessary to educate the public not to abuse the drug. As I am an Islander at present enjoying this wonderful climate—both summer and

The Poet's Corner

A MIDGET'S EPITAPH (From "Ding Dong Bell") Just a span and a half a span From head to heel was this little man. Scarcely a cupful of small bones Raised up erect this Midget once. Yet not a knuckle was askew; Inches for feet God made him true; And something handsome put between His coal-black hair and beardless chin. But now, forsooth, with mole and mouse, He keeps his own small darkened house. —Walter de la Mare.

Old Charlottetown (And P. E. I.)

The truckman who hauls the Holo engine had his horse at pasture when the alarm of fire in Mr. John Newson's brick warehouse was given on Sunday last. The members of the Company did not wait the arrival of the horse, but hauled the horse themselves, and thus proved their energy to be far superior to the members of the Silsby Company, who waited until the arrival of their horse. As a result they were detained from work several minutes. The engine and hook and ladder companies worked with good effect, and although the building was very hot and densely filled with smoke, they did not fail to enter it and remain until the last spark was extinguished. —Weekly Examiner, June 4, 1880.

Winter—I have an interest in my fellow Provincials and desire to have them use all things with moderation. I am, Sir, etc. MATILDA B. ROSS 1 Burdett Apartments, Victoria, B. C.

(Enclosure)

British Columbia's alcohol education program financed by the Provincial Government's liquor tax, will be confined to the showing of four motion picture films in high schools throughout the Province during the current term, but starting next September a regular course in alcohol education will be offered all high school students.

This was announced by Education Minister W. T. S. Strath, K. C., under whose direction the program, the first of its kind in Canada, is being formulated. Mr. Strath also announced that a meeting to which representatives of brewers, distillers, service clubs, temperance groups, educationists, and any others who wish to attend would be invited, would be held in Victoria on the afternoon of Sunday, Feb. 8. The meeting, similar to one held last year in Vancouver, will be held in the Empress Hotel ballroom.

Mr. Strath pointed out that no attempt would be made to give lectures on alcohol education in the schools until teachers had been trained.

At the forthcoming Summer School of Education to be held in Victoria during the summer school vacation, teachers will be trained in the proposed course, Mr. Strath said.

The Education Minister made it clear that the Province was adopting the position that it was neither prohibitionist nor a proponent of the use of alcohol in the course.

Basic principles of the program were:

- 1. That the use of alcoholic beverages by society has existed for more than a thousand years in all countries despite legal and social attempts to prohibit it. 2. That in a plebiscite taken Oct. 20, 1920, the people of British Columbia decided liquor should be sold under government control. 3. That the absence of the custom of drinking presents many undesirable social, personal and economic problems. 4. That the characteristics of modern society have increased the magnitude and complexity of the problems of alcohol. 5. That the most hopeful approach to the problem today for improving the folkways and legal enactments in respect to the use of alcohol lies in a sound and scientific educational program.

The subject matter of the course will include not only facts concerning alcohol as a beverage, but facts and implications concerning the use of alcoholic beverages such as the motives and explanations for drinking; alcoholism and diseases associated with the use of alcohol, and the use of alcohol as related to nutrition, length of life, social adjustment, personality and many other factors.

Safeguards will be taken in presenting the course not to give the impression that drinking is, in itself, an immoral act; not to undermine the influence of an essentially good home in which alcohol is used; not to present the student with preconceived conclusions concerning alcohol; not to convey the impression that moderate and temperate drinking is a worthy habit for young people, and not to use exaggerated, over-emphatic, exhortation or other similar approaches. British Columbia's alcohol education program came into being with the passing at the last session of the Legislature of amendments to the Liquor Act which provided for the creation of a fund to be expended under the

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