

THE GUARDIAN

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Editor: Frank Walker, General Manager: Ian A. Burnett

A New City

Askelon is one of the cities mentioned frequently in the Bible. In the days of the prophets it was one of the five cities occupied by the Philistines, a warlike people with whom the Israelites were in constant disagreement and quite frequently at war.

The prophets of Israel, having an understandable antipathy towards Askelon and its inhabitants, foretold its destruction by fire, along with Gaza, Ashdod, and Ekron. This, in fact, did come to pass in A. D. 1270 during the time of the Crusades.

At Long Last

A few months ago a group of Iowa farmers suggested that the Soviet Union send a few farmers to that State to study corn and hog raising methods. The idea occurred to them after they had read in their local newspaper that Nikita Khrushchev, Communist party boss, had complained that Soviet farms were not producing enough corn or hogs.

The President seemed to favour the plan from the start; but he was kept from making a decision for some time by the hemming and hawing of certain politicians around him. Finally, however, once it had been established that the visit of the Russian farmers would in no way prejudice Republican prospects in 1956, he declared that he favoured exchange of agricultural delegations.

enough to believe that a few Russian farmers, entering the United States on visitors' permits, can do any harm. They would certainly get nowhere with the Iowans, ideologically, if they were to make the attempt; and, since their understanding of the Iowan dialect is probably very limited, it is not likely that they will want to talk about anything except pigs, corn, and the weather.

An Eye-Opener

There has been so much journeying back and forth to Communist China by Indian officials in recent months that some Western observers are wondering if Prime Minister Nehru is inclined to make some sort of secret deal with Peiping based on strict Indian neutrality in the event of serious trouble in the Far East.

A while back Indian labour leaders were invited to take part in Communist China's May Day celebrations and to tour the principal centres as guests of China's labour unions. After considering the invitations, the Indians refused to accept them. Thirty-two individuals, however, did go to Peiping, paying their own way.

That will be an eye-opener indeed to India's labour population and, it is to be hoped, to India's government. It may help to convince even Mr. Nehru that there is, after all, a difference between the intentions of Western democracy and those of international Communism, and that he will have to be on his guard against any attempt by his Chinese neighbours to put into effect the changes which already appear on China's maps.

EDITORIAL NOTES

One cannot conceive of a situation in this country where Parliament would pass even one item of legislation against the Prime Minister's wishes. Yet, so far in Mr. Eisenhower's incumbency Congress has passed 53 bills which the President disliked so much that he vetoed them.

Foreign Minister Molotov is not a member of the Russian "goodwill" delegation now in Belgrade. His absence may be of no special significance; but it is worth noting that he was the last highly placed Russian to throw a verbal barrage in the direction of Marshal Tito.

The federal civil service continues to grow, despite Government efforts to cut costs and pare expenses. The Dominion Bureau of Statistics has reported that in 1954 the number of civil servants increased by 6,372. In January 1955 the net increase was 610. This means that there are 141,783 classified civil servants on direct Government payrolls.

To prove that British colonialism isn't dead and that the Empire has not been entirely liquidated, the British House of Commons recently passed a tidy budget item of \$300,000,000. The money was allocated to the British West Indies (bigger than the State of Connecticut) Nigeria (as big as France), Kenya (about the size of Nevada), Tanganyika (equal to the size of Germany), Malaya (the size of Maine), Cyprus, Malta and Gibraltar (all small but important). The appropriations are intended to raise the standard of living in these colonies over a period of five years. More will be forthcoming after that.



Good Morning!

PUBLIC FORUM

This column is open to the discussion of current events. The Guardian does not necessarily endorse the opinions of our readers.

THE BLOOD DONOR CLINIC

Sir—May I have space in your valuable paper to express a few thoughts re the Red Cross Blood Donor Clinic to be held today and tomorrow in the Clover Club of the Legion Building. I wonder do we realize the great importance of this clinic and the great obligation we have to see that during this clinic (which has been postponed since last fall due to the prevalence of communicable diseases) we not only make up what we are now over-drawn in the Maritime Blood Bank, and establish a credit which will be sufficient to look after the daily needs of our citizens, but also to tide us over any emergency which might arise.

I do not believe it is fully understood by many of our citizens that, if they are in good health, the giving of blood will cause them neither any pain in the giving nor any adverse after-effects.

To our citizens in general, but to our Legion members in particular, I would like to make this obligation lightly. You never know when you or yours may have to take advantage of this service. Remember the slogan: "When you give blood the life you save may be your own."

I am, Sir, etc. F. P. SMITH, Canadian Legion.

Queer Fish

(Canadian Press St. Andrews, N.B.) Marine biologists at the federal department of fisheries biological station here will soon be opening specially packaged and sinking seals to some of the queerest fish ever to trespass in northern waters.

Experts say the ocean is slowly getting warmer and the fish are getting queerer all the time. About two dozen tropical or semi-tropical fish have been identified of the many strange species sent here for examination. And the scientists are eager to add to the list.

LARGEST MONSTER SHARKS Largest of the visiting fish is the man-eating great white shark which reaches a length of 30 feet. Among the smallest is the lantern fish which is big at four inches.

All the fish have impressive Latin names, but their colloquial ones are more descriptive. The robin fish somehow contrives to look like a robin.

The trigger fish has a dorsal fin shaped like a revolver trigger. The moon fish looks like a three-quarter moon.

Other fish don't like to rub shoulders with the file-fish. It's skin is rough and hard like sandpaper. The trumpet fish is long and skinny and gets its name from its mouth, which looks like the bell of a trumpet. Biologists hint however that it can't even carry a tune.

CRAB VARIETIES Four strange crabs have come north, and only three are welcome. The other one kills clams. One could be commercially important if enough members of its family travelled with it.

The savage moray eel has also come north to terrify peaceable codfish and herring. Among the Bermuda reefs it grows to six feet, and it dashes its prey against the bottom to make it tender.

A few tourists from the north have been seen occasionally. They include the white whale, sometimes called the beluga and the bearded seal.

Advertisement for 'The Poets' Corner' featuring 'THE LEADEN-EYED' and a list of poems.

OTTAWA REPORT

\$728,111,000 Liquor Bill

By Patrick Nicholson

If every Canadian smoker used a dollar bill to light up his smoke every day when he got home from work, we would no doubt all be thought crazy. Yet it did that for a whole year, we would only match this country's liquor bill.

This bill, in the latest year for which figures have just been compiled, amounted to \$728,111,000. This was the dollar volume of the sales of alcoholic beverages reported by liquor control authorities during the twelve months ended 31 March, 1954.

But even this large figure does not tell the whole story of Canada's liquor bill. To begin with, it is enlarged by including the sale of drinks to tourists visiting Canada. But probably more than offsetting this are the sums spent on liquor by Canadians travelling outside our own country.

And this is no meagre volume. It runs the whole gamut from many a pint of bitter enjoyed in British pubs, to almost as many bottles of rum at a mere dollar a time quaffed on the Spanish Main; not forgetting those magnificent German-type beers, delectable Californian wines, and authoritative juleps consumed by the Canadians travelling south of the border.

MOONSHINE AND RAY RUM

In addition, there is an unknown amount of hooch made by bathtub gin addicts and other moonshiners, and an unascertainable sum spent on toilet preparations for misuse by the rub-a-dubs and the bays boys.

Finally, there is a considerable extra outlay on liquor consumed by the glass by the patrons of cocktail bars, who pay up to two or three times the price at which the bar buys the bottle from the liquor store.

The Dominion Bureau of Statistics estimates that the total consumption of alcoholic beverages in Canada in 1953 was \$386,000,000. This is \$141,000,000 more than the sales reported by liquor control authorities.

According to my estimate, our entire working force of salaried and wage-earning men and women, in civilian and military jobs, had to work 119 hours during the year to earn enough to pay this staggering bill.

There are several trends of interest revealed by these annual surveys of our drinking and its cost.

1953 RECORD YEAR

The first is that 1953 was our record drinking year, with a total bill just double that in 1945.

Another is the notable reversal of the traditional french and English customs. Ontario now spends more on wines than Quebec does; while last year Quebec recorded a surprising 25 per cent jump in its consumption of beer.

British Columbia alone of the provinces spent less on liquor in 1953 than in the previous year, and showed a significant swing towards wines.

There are two important aspects of the liquor trade which are usually overlooked. One is that it provides a very substantial source of tax revenue for our federal, provincial and even some municipal governments. Exactly

Medically Speaking

Herman N. Bundesen, M.D.

GO AHEAD AND CHEW GUM; IT PREVENTS TOOTH DECAY

Like to chew gum? Well, go ahead. A recent experiment made by two dental professors showed that gum-chewing slowed down acid formation in the mouth enough to prevent serious tooth decay.

Drs. A. A. Yurkstas and William Emerson, both of Tufts College Dental School, reported their findings at a recent meeting of the International Association for Dental Research in Chicago. Volunteers in the experiment, they explained, rinsed their mouths with a sugary solution which simulated the effects of eating a sweet treat. Some of the volunteers then munched a stick of gum; the rest did not.

Results of the Report

The results proved that the gum chewers had the advantage. In comparing them with the non-chewers, Drs. Yurkstas and Emerson say, the acid formation in the film over their teeth was slowed down 36 per cent. Acid concentration reached its "critical level" of decalcification 50 times among non-chewers and only 14 times among the gum munchers.

The reason for this is fairly simple. Gum-chewing stimulates the flow of saliva. This helps clear the mouth of sugar which produces acid. There is overwhelming evidence that sugars help to cause tooth decay. The researchers say, but add that all foods with a sugar content are not necessarily dangerous to the teeth.

Low Sugar Content

In other words, it's the sugar that sticks to your teeth that hurts you, not the sugar you swallow. All chewing gums, of course, do not behave in exactly the same way. Some have lower sugar content than themselves and others stimulate saliva more rapidly. Of the three gums tested, the doctors said, one was 50 to 75 per cent more effective in slowing acid formation than the other two.

QUESTION AND ANSWER

M. H. W.: What is the cause of a nervous indigestion which can be done for it? X-rays shows no organic trouble.

Answer: Nervous indigestion is due to the incorrect action of the stomach.

The treatment for nervous indigestion may include changing to certain foods and overwork must be eliminated; the diet must be simple. In severe cases, prolonged rest in bed may be necessary.

And So To Bed

(Globe and Mail)

The Senate of Canada has just rejected an opportunity to make itself heard and to force the House of Commons, as well as the public, to consider seriously the future of the country's Second Chamber. By a vote of thirty-seven to twelve, the senators have turned down a bill which would have made it mandatory that every Senate vacancy be filled within six months of its occurrence.

Fully manned, the Senate would have 102 members. At present it has only eighty. One of the twenty-two vacancies is seven years old. Others are five, four or three years old. If House of Commons seats were left unfilled for this length of time, there would be an outcry from the constituencies affected — and also, let us hope, from the public in general. But the Dominion Government, or more particularly Prime Minister St. Laurent, apparently assumes that a Senate with nearly one-quarter of its places empty is good enough and that twenty-two chairs are as useful as twenty-two senators. Mr. St. Laurent's negligence is contemptible, in every sense of the word.

The rejected bill sponsored by Senator Euler had to take the form of an amendment to the British North America Act. This statute, as it now stands, stipulates that the Governor-General (acting, of course, on the advice of his Prime Minister) should "from time to time summon qualified persons to the Senate." There is nothing in the BNA Act to compel a Prime Minister to appoint senators.

Constitutionally, he might let the Second Chamber vanish by simply waiting for all its members to die and naming no successors. The Senate debate on the bill was well above the House of Commons level. What was remarkable about this discussion was that leading members of both sides supported the Euler proposal with cogent reasoning, while the opponents of the measure produced objections that can only be called ludicrous.

Four of these objections were that the Crown cannot be obliged to make appointments; that the Senate is just as efficient with eighty as with 102 members; that six months is too short a time; and that the Provinces must be consulted about the proposed change. The answers are, in brief: that Parliament is sovereign; that the Senate needs full membership to do its proper part in committee work; that the six-month term could have been changed to a year if that seemed desirable; and that the Provinces never have had, and have not now, any say in Senate nominations.

Complacently and thoughtfully without a decent argument to their name, a majority of senators voted for things as they are and turned down Mr. Euler's bill. They missed a chance to have the House of Commons considered in the Commons and by the public. Evidently they do not want the subject debated. They are content with their lifetime pensions. This is not the way to keep the Senate alive or bring to it either the respect or the authority it ought to have.

as all the other Commonwealth countries. It is a song for all occasions when people are gathered together, not to be relegated to limbo by the sorpsuses and the bigots. We agree with Mr. St. Laurent that no law should be passed, or is needed, to make it the National Anthem. Custom and tradition long ago gave it that status.

NOTES BY THE WAY

And when you are continually finding fault with others you must realize that you have at least one of your own. — St. Catharines Standard

The father of a soldier in the permanent forces came into this office the other day in an indignant mood. It was in his capacity as taxpayer that he was angry. He complained that three years ago his son, a private, was moved from a prairie camp to the Pacific Coast at a cost of \$1,200 to the Federal Treasury. Recently, he claimed his son had been moved again — this time to a camp in Eastern Canada. There were no living quarters available for the son's wife and children and the son's third week in a motel at a cost of more than \$30 a day to the Government. — Winnipeg Tribune

The Warsaw pact brings out in the open for more effective use what has been kept hitherto under cover. It opens up new possibilities for enlarging the satellite forces, already doused in recent years to 1,500,000 men, and integrating them more completely into the Soviet military machine of 4,500,000 men. It provides new opportunities for building bigger and better airfields closer to the Western front, for organizing and equipping strategic railroad facilities, and for stockpiling supplies. Last but not least, it provides a legalistic basis not only for keeping Soviet troops in Hungary and Rumania, but also for withdrawing from Austria, but also for advancing Soviet troops to more forward positions. — New York Times

Finances of "gentlemen" farmers some times challenge the wisdom of the Income Tax Appeal Board, but at least one basic principle has been laid down. "I now appears to be accepted." — The Canadian

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Indian Tax Journal reports, "that a farm which consistently produces nothing but losses is not a source of income." — Toronto Telegram

Those who saved for their old age are beginning to realize that they'll need twice as much as they thought they would. — St. Thomas Times-Journal

Mr. St. Laurent, thanks to his parliamentary majority and to the prestige he possesses in the country, has it in his power to reform the Senate, set a style for the future. Those of his followers with an eye on the Upper House would cry out in pain and protest, but the Prime Minister should not be intimidated. It is his responsibility; his is the decision; his the opportunity. — Ottawa Journal

The successful in a course, a practicing psychologist, whether she knows it or not. Possibly she would derive some value from academic knowledge on the subject. It might not help her to regulate the unpredictable behavior of robust, healthy and normal children. But it could furnish some satisfaction. Sufficiently well informed, she might at least know why she is driven temporarily off her rocker by children who don't operate according to the book. — Victoria Times

If Canada is ever to reduce the carnage that occurs upon the streets and highways, some drastic action must be taken. This safety conference was pronounced by this fact. All Canadians should be motivated by the same desire, and with unity of purpose there should not be too much difficulty safety code for highways, obstacles may prevent a uniform safety code for highways, obstacles which are much more imaginary. — Quebec Chronicle-Telegraph

The Age Old Story

And he called the multitude, and said unto them, Hear, and understand: not that which gets into the mouth defileth a man; but that which cometh out of the mouth, this defileth a man.

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