

THE GUARDIAN

Published every week-day morning at 136 Prince Street, Charlottetown, P.E.I., by The Thomson Company Limited
"Covers Prince Edward Island Like the Dew"
Editor, Frank Walker
General Manager, Ian A. Burnett
Branch offices at Summerside, Montague and Alberton. Authorized as Second Class Mail by the Post Office Department, Ottawa.
By Carrier, Charlottetown, Summerside \$15.00 per annum. Elsewhere in P.E.I. \$9.00. Other Provinces and U.S. \$12.00 per annum.

"The strongest memory is weaker than the weakest ink."

TUESDAY, MAY 17, 1955

Maritime Power Resources

This Province will follow with interest, the results, if any, of the report of Dr. A. G. Christie, of Johns Hopkins University, for an amalgamation of electric power facilities in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick; for there seems no reason why power thus generated could not be furnished cheaply throughout the whole Maritime area.

The Moncton Transcript, in commenting favorably on the project, says the establishment of the proposed grid system to be shared on a common circuit should present no physical difficulty. The New Brunswick and Nova Scotia circuits at present come within a few miles of each other, and if the barrier of provincial politics could be overcome it would seem that many advantages would accrue. It is possible to envision a substantial power plant, foreseen by Dr. Christie as eventually consuming some 500,000 tons of coal a year. Such a plant would produce more steam-electric power than would be practical for use in the immediate area. But thrown into the common system it would be able to boost the low power in other centres.

Again, such an undertaking would mean a continuation of work for the Nova Scotia coal miners. Because of the extent of this industry in Nova Scotia, any impetus given it would result in maintenance of buying power which is bound to be reflected throughout the Maritimes.

Another point of value in gridding the power resources of the two provinces, says The Transcript, is the fact that a steady flow can be maintained when emergencies arise. Plant failures or breakdowns in the distributing system now often mean power blackouts, sometimes for prolonged periods. Steps are being taken in New Brunswick to counteract this situation, but it does not lessen the value of having alternate sources which can be tapped when needed. Without minimizing the importance of the Beechwood hydro project that is now under way, and other sister developments along the St. John river that have been proposed, New Brunswick is barely keeping up with the demand for power. Until there is an adequate guaranteed source, and power available at an attractive cost, it will be impossible to attract industries to the Maritimes in sufficient numbers to change the tenor of the economy.

"With the many apparent advantages, and the suggestion of an expert who was engaged to investigate the possibilities," adds our Moncton contemporary, "it would seem up to the governments of New Brunswick and Nova Scotia to explain why steps have not been taken towards investigating such a development."

Atomic Power Conference

An important event in the new era of power will occur on August 8th, when scientific delegates from some 80 countries will meet in Geneva, to study the technical and scientific factors involved and to explore the means required to develop atomic power on an international scale. Dr. H. J. Bhabha of India will be the president of the Conference, and Dr. Walter J. Whitman of the United States has been appointed Secretary-General.

A new world-picture will emerge from this meeting. Authoritative surveys will be made of the world's power requirements between the years 1975 and 2000, including the needs and resources of specific regions and countries that are not yet industrialized, of others that are in transition from agricultural to industrial economy, and of countries that are already industrial. Other sessions will discuss the availability of the raw materials for atomic fuels, the economics of nuclear power, the safety and health factors involved in atomic installations, the production and use of isotopes in industry, medicine and agriculture, and the legal problems involved. There will also be more technical sessions on the design and operation of nuclear reactors of various types, and on the fundamental facts and principles of chemistry, physics and biology upon which future developments must depend. (including medical research on protection against radiation damage). A final session will discuss measures for the assistance of individual countries in the use of atomic energy, and the technical education of the experts who will be needed. The result will be a world-wide design for the peaceful uses of atomic energy and atomic

materials. The promise of atomic power is so great that many countries are not waiting for United Nations action, but have already begun active developments. Yet very few nations have had actual experience in the full-scale operation of atomic reactors or of atomic power plants. In the debate at the United Nations General Assembly, the Canadian delegate, Hon. Paul Martin, said, "The most immediate need is for information and training to spread the technology required on a wide scale... In order to construct reactors and carry on useful creative research in this field, not only is it necessary to have technical information on the subject—much of it already available—but one must also have scientists, engineers and technicians trained, at least to some degree, in the use and interpretation of these extremely complicated research tools". And he proposed that this training be part of the task of the new agency.

This need has already been recognized in the United States, where a School of Nuclear Science and Engineering was opened at the Argonne National Laboratory near Chicago on March 7th last. Thirty-one advanced students from 19 nations, and nine from the U. S. itself, have been admitted to this establishment. They include four students from Belgium, two each from Argentina, Australia, Egypt, France, Greece, Japan, Pakistan, Spain and Thailand, and one student each from Brazil, Guatemala, Indonesia, Israel, Mexico, the Philippines, Portugal, Sweden and Switzerland. They have now begun a seven-month study course in the design, construction and operation of reactors for nuclear research; in the principles of design of nuclear power reactors; in the handling of irradiated materials; and in other peaceful applications of nuclear energy. A unique international school to prepare the first experts of 20 nations for the new era of power is thus already in existence, under the auspices of the U. S. Atomic Energy Commission.

For Good Reading

A new experiment is being tried out in the St. Catharines, Ontario, public library. (At any rate, that is where it started. It may have travelled farther afield by now.) This, briefly, is how it works: A special badge is given to each child in the six to twelve age group who takes six books from the library and reads them studiously enough to pass a simple test given by the librarian at the end of a designated period. A second badge, more elaborately designed than the first, is given upon the reading of six more books, four of which must be non-fiction. So it goes until twenty-four books, each series advancing in literary weight, have been read and the ensuing tests passed. Then, each successful reader is presented with an engraved certificate showing that the recipient is now a member in good standing of the "Library Advisory Committee." What happens to those unfortunate enough to fail in the tests the report does not say; presumably they are given another chance to strive for the badge of excellence.

The idea was first advanced by Mr. Claude Butler of Ambassador Books Ltd., a Canadian publishing firm; the money to put it to the test was provided by the American Book Manufacturers' Institute. The purpose behind the plan is, of course, the development of interest in reading at an early age when, so the psychologists say, most of the normal patterns of adult life are fashioned. It will be interesting to see how it works out. Certainly, anything that will make good and interested readers out of present day youngsters, who are up against diverting influences with which no other generation had to contend, is worth attention.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Prime Minister Eden told a political gathering the other day that when people save six times as much one year as they did the year before—which is what Britishers did in 1954—they can't be too badly off. So far, the Labour reply has not been reported; it had better be good if they hope to quash that plain bit of reasoning.

The 50th anniversary of the death of Jules Verne, the science-fiction writer, most of whose fanciful predictions have come to pass, will be observed solemnly by writers and scientists from all over the world in Paris the 25th of this month. His books have been translated into 82 languages, ranking close to the Bible in that respect.

Gradually the German war prisoners are returning to freedom and, let us hope, to a more peaceful way of life. British authorities released three a few days ago, leaving thirty-one still in durance vile. The Americans hold eighty-six, and the French eighteen. Apart from a few top Nazis, who are in for life, most of them will be free in a year or two.



Change Of Pace

999 Enemies Of Man

(International Science News)

Ever since man first appeared on the earth, he has been afflicted by diseases caused by his predecessors: the bacteria or single-celled plants, the protozoa or single-celled animals, and the viruses, which some scientists believe were the first living things. Germs, through mutation, are constantly generating new species. Occasionally, but rarely, they are responsible for new diseases. For while mutations occur quite frequently, the mutant, or changing, disappears almost as rapidly as it emerged.

As a matter of fact, our century has probably produced no really new disease, with the possible exception of ailments related to modern techniques, machines or chemicals. Another indication that man is outstripping germs is a new method of tracking down new viruses. Those tiny, puzzling germs lie on the borderline between inert chemicals and living organisms. They are sometimes discovered as disease-causing parasites in human beings, sometimes in higher animals or insects.

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The researchers then examined African natives to determine whether the germ is capable of producing disease in humans. Delicate blood tests showed that, at one time or another, a majority of the population in the region had been host to the "new" germ. Fortunately, however, the virus, although deadly to laboratory animals, produces no symptoms of disease in human beings.

Thus, the search goes on. Medical scientists continue to find new germs, some that are harmless, and some that cause disease. But they also find new ways to combat them. The last few years have seen the development of powerful and safe drugs, such as the newest broad range antibiotic, penicillin, as well as effective protective agents against the pinto virus and other germs. When disease No. 1,000 is discovered, the chances are that medicine will be ready for it.

A meat packer found that the butchers in his cutting room were easily fatigued, inefficient and subject to frequent illness. There was no apparent reason for their low morale—until a colour analysis was called in. The culprit, he said, was the white paint on the walls and ceilings of the cutting room. Because of an optical phenomenon known as retinal fatigue, the butchers saw green images of the meat they were cutting every time they looked up from their work. The problem was solved when the walls were painted green.

A manufacturer faced a similar situation. The interior of his factory had been painted a light blue in the belief that it would make things pleasant instead, the workmen complained of being cold in the winter. When the colour was changed to a "warm" hue—yellow—the complaints ceased. Because bright colours make objects look larger, and because some colour combinations make a deeper impression than others—black on yellow is the most vivid of all—merchandisers have learned that the proper use of colours in packaging will increase sales. Colour is important to health and well-being in the home. For example, a woman who was often ill always seemed to improve when she got away from her own room, which was painted in purple—her "favourite" colour. The doctor persuaded her to take a trip, and while she was away, had the

room repainted yellow. She never suffered from her old annoying symptoms again.

It is only in recent years that there has begun the scientific study of the relation between emotional health and our senses. But we now know that colour, music and smell can often be healing agents as effective as drugs and scalpels.

In many modern hospitals, music is used to lessen the apprehension of surgical patients and to overcome the disturbing effects of operating room noises and conversations. Physicians also report that music helps expectant mothers to endure pain and pass the hours of labour with less fear and foreboding. Dentists are also turning to music as a means of helping patients to overcome their fear of extractions and prolonged drilling. The most striking successes of musical therapy, however, have been scored in psychiatry.

Experiments with smells as tools of medicine have not yet progressed as far as with music and colours. But, because an odour can be effective in bringing a half-forgotten scene to the mind, physicians are finding smells of value in the diagnosis and treatment of the mentally ill. Several hospitals in the USA are already using "scent-therapy."

Our senses are the only way we have of perceiving and knowing the outside world. It is little wonder, then, that the sounds we hear, the colours we see, and the scents we smell are an important means of understanding—and healing—our ills.

Executioner Speaks

(Ottawa Journal)

The joint Parliamentary commission that capital punishment has had an interview with an executioner on the manner of his profession. It was not a pleasant occasion for the men and women of the committee and they deserve credit for pursuing to the last gruesome detail the quest for information which will permit them to make a useful recommendation to Parliament. The hangman is a nightmarish apparition in an age devoted to seeking peace and gentleness in human relations. The committee found a man with pride in his occupation prepared to discuss the taking of life with the clinical attitude of a doctor who saves life. Yet every Canadian who agrees that the penalty for murder should be death must remember that, at the end of the long trail of investigation, trial and sentence, comes the awful moment when the executioner and the condemned meet at the gallows and mercy is no more.

The committee, after hearing many witnesses, remains to be convinced that capital punishment should be abolished. The anguish of an execution cannot be permitted to extinguish the memory of the murder it is designed to punish. It remains to be proven that the promise of death for a murderer does not restrain would-be killers. The committee can serve usefully by reporting, in light of all it has learned, whether there should be a change in the method of execution, making quick death more certain. The "professional" gave the committee members the benefit of his experience and it is possible that he unwittingly persuaded them that the electric chair or the gas chamber are more humane instruments for imposing man's most dreadful punishment to man.

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The Poet's Corner

LEISURE

What is this life if, full of care, We have no time to stand and stare.

No time to stand beneath the boughs, And stare as long as sheep or cows.

No time to see, when woods we pass, Where squirrels hide their nuts in grass.

No time to see, in broad daylight, Streams full of stars, like skies at night.

No time to turn at Beauty's glance, And watch her feet, how they can dance.

No time to wait till her mouth can Enrich that smile her eyes began.

A poor life this if, full of care, We have no time to stand and stare.

—W. H. Davies.

The Age Old Story

And he straitly charged him, and forthwith sent him away; and saith unto him, See thou say nothing to any man; but go thy way, shew thyself to the priest, and offer for thy cleansing those things which Moses commanded, for a testimony unto them.

MIDNIGHT SUN Alert weather station on Ellesmere island has no sunset for 147 days in the year.

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Medically Speaking

Herman N. Bundesen, M.D.

THE FAMILY'S HEALTH

When you stop to think about it, Father, as the head of the household, has a real and lasting influence on the physical, moral and mental health of his family.

Seeing that his children are brought up in a healthy manner is the father's responsibility—perhaps his greatest responsibility—his own family attitude, can encourage a healthy, intelligent attitude in his children.

Wise Fatherhood

As we all know, mental disorders or neurotic complaints are on the increase. Many children develop physical complaints due to frustration, worry or mental conflicts. Wise fatherhood that instills self-respect, confidence and wholesomeness in children, can avoid mental disorders of this type.

A child brought up in a home of constant strife, between mother and father, or one in which competition between the children is stressed and favoritism among children is prevalent, is in real danger of growing up with an abnormal mental attitude and is a good candidate for a nervous disorder.

Most fathers' duties go beyond merely providing an income for their families. A father instills independence, clean thoughts and sportsmanship within his children. Healthy living and thinking begin in the home.

It is so important in forming a child's basic concepts, is surpassed by the home in its influence on clean and healthy thinking. Then, too, it is Father's job to provide for the family in sickness. While Mother cares for the immediate health of the children, it is the father who usually insures adequate protection in case of serious illness, and sees to it that his family is provided with a healthy environment.

QUESTION AND ANSWER

Mrs. H. B.: My daughter, twenty-seven, had both her ovaries removed due to growths. Should she be taking female hormone? Answer: It is probable that, due to early removal of the ovaries, your daughter may have bothersome symptoms such as hot flushes. The taking of female hormone, under the directions of a physician, would be advisable in such a case. However, if she has no symptoms, there is no need to take hormones.

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NOTES BY THE WAY

A gloomy note for space explorers is the statement by an astronomer that, because of the low gravity on the moon, it will be impracticable to play baseball, cricket or golf there. —Christian Science Monitor.

Time is appropriate to sound a word of warning about farm tractors. Every year in this province a number of farmers are injured, sometimes killed, by tractors overturning upon them. One hopes, that with a little care, this type of accident may be avoided in this district this year. —Brockville Recorder and Times.

A little restraint at the present time will ensure plenty of trilliums throughout Ontario for years to come. The demands of a trillium are small. It does not ask cultivation, or open space, or fertile soil. Yet it gives joy to everyone who admires beautiful things. It should have the minimum of protection it needs. —Cornwall Standard-Freeholder.

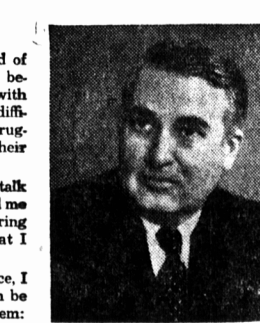
We cannot condemn too strongly this rising tendency for policemen to use their guns instead of their legs or heads. This is not meant as an indictment of police constabulary or their officers, but as a suggestion to police officials that the time has come when they must take steps to more strongly impress their men that guns are for protection, not for the purpose of passing judgment. We must not have, and cannot have, protectors of the public who lack in stability and good judgment, for then they become not protectors, but a danger to democracy. Woodstock Sentinel - Review.

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Honorable Charles Edison, son of the late Thomas A. Edison, Chairman of the Board of Thomas A. Edison, Incorporated; former Assistant Secretary, then Secretary of the Navy; former Governor of New Jersey; officer and/or director in many national, known civic, educational and industrial organizations.

We are grateful to Mr. Edison for granting us permission to place his important message before Canada's hard of hearing.

Mr. Edison is one of a distinguished group of authors, statesmen, scientists, executives and millionaires who can afford to pay any price for a hearing aid but wear the \$75 Zenith.

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