

THE GUARDIAN

Authorized as Second Class Mail Post Office Department, Ottawa. The Island Guardian Publishing Co. Editor and Managing Director, Ian A. Burnett, Associate Editor, Frank Walker. CIRCULATION "Covers Prince Edward Island like the dew" "The strongest memory is weaker than the weakest ink". CHARLOTTETOWN FRIDAY, OCT. 9, 1953

P.O.W. Recommendation

The recommendation of Chief Justice Thane A. Campbell that Canadians who had been Prisoners-of-War be presumed to have suffered hardship entitling them to compensation writes success to the efforts of the National Council of Canadian Prisoners of War. It is also a responsible judicial finding that no country holding Canadians as Prisoners-of-War lived up to the Geneva Convention.

The money to pay this compensation, if it is approved, and other claims that are successfully maintained before the War Claims Commission will come out of assets of ex-enemy countries held by the Canadian Government. These funds, it would appear, are inadequate for all the claims that are expected to be made against them so that it may well be that the increased payments for physical hardship will reduce the amount available for compensation for financial losses.

No one, however, would argue that it should be otherwise. The Chief Commissioner's recommendation means that he has been convinced of the hardships imposed in the various prison camps and it is not likely that the individual prisoner would fail to make out a case of hardship, although it would mean a great deal of effort and expense to prove each individual case.

The finding brings home vividly how far the nations had departed from international law in the Second World War. Many individuals have been punished for atrocities and other breaches but the punishment may well mean only that in future no country will dare to lose a war, no matter how desirable it might be to bring it to an end. The whole question is one of the utmost importance and will continue to be until war itself is abolished.

Back To Fundamentals

It is interesting to note that the trend in higher education in the United States is again toward the fundamentals, with emphasis once more on the humanities in providing students with a broad foundation in the chief fields of knowledge. Latest indication of this trend is a sixty-page report prepared by the Yale University General Committee on Education. Undertaken by the president and eminent faculty members of the University, the study has been in process for the past year. It is reviewed in a recent issue of the New York Times, from which we quote:

"The Yale report proposes, in effect, a clean break with the existing undergraduate college program. The committee makes this basic suggestion: Let us pay less attention to the extracurricular aspects of college life and more to the major business of the curriculum—developing educated, critical-minded, sound-thinking men and women.

"The suggestions presented by the Yale committee are radical. There are two programs: the first, a transitional one, to develop a stronger undergraduate course for the freshman and sophomore years; the second, a permanent plan that would reverse existing college patterns and return, to a large degree, to the system used at Oxford and Cambridge. The student would be treated as a thinking, independent individual. His would be the responsibility to study. He would not be prodded, and pushed into an education nor be spoon fed.

"The Yale committee takes to task 'student immaturity' as expressed in over-emphasis upon extracurricular activities. The whole community of students finds its academic work secondary in comparison with such 'important' items as sports or the college newspaper. Not that these activities are in themselves a sign of immaturity, the report hastens to explain. But a majority of the students puts second things first—and the effect of this type of student preoccupation is at times 'both insidious and cumulative'. Immaturity is defined as a failure to recognize the importance of the work which stands at the centre of college life."

The Yale plan comes as the climax of a series of plans and studies that have appeared periodically during the last decade by a number of leading American universities. Already, notes The Times, "in the changes adopted at Harvard, Princeton and Columbia, as well as many other institutions, runs one significant thread. The unlimited, free elective system of a quarter of a century ago has been modified and in some instances virtually eliminated. What

is sometimes described as the 'cafeteria' system of education—in which one takes an educational dish here and another at the far end of the counter—appears to be on the way out. The late Nicholas Murray Butler of Columbia described the free elective system as a 'rabbit' program in which the student hopped about the educational garden, nibbling a carrot, sampling a turnip or stopping at the head of a cabbage. When it was all over, would the student come up with a well-balanced menu or would he get indigestion or suffer from malnutrition?"

All of which goes to prove that reforms in any direction can be dangerous when they lose sight of first principles, and that so far as higher education is concerned these first principles have changed little with the years, despite the advances in techniques and the sciences.

Emblem Of Stability

Commenting on the plowing events in Ontario this week, the Ottawa Journal says: "The champion plowmen who have come to Canada to compete in the international plowing contest at Cobourg make us think of the everlasting verities. They were not interested in Canadian buildings or finances or statistics or foreign policy. They wanted to know about the soil. They turned the earth in their fingers and estimated how it would plow and yield.

"The cultivation of the soil remains the most important occupation of man. The good earth is still our mother and when Ingersoll wrote 'To plow is to pray' he spoke for all the ages. Should the plowman fail and the ground turn barren then, more finally than under the stroke of the hydrogen bomb, does civilization die.

"An international plowing match may be farming in its most exotic guise, but the good plowman who loves the land and glories in his skill is an emblem of faith and stability in a world where change has bred so many doubts.

EDITORIAL NOTES

H. R. H. the Duke of Kent born this date, 1935.

The speed-up of traffic over the Hillsborough Bridge by effecting control from the ends of the bridge itself rather than the approaches will be appreciated by motorists. It is to be hoped, however, that the interest being shown in the present structure does not mean that the building of a new bridge or causeway is a matter for the distant future.

The Indian guards of prisoners-of-war in Korea are having their troubles. They could hardly have been helped by the rather unfortunate declaration that weapons would not be used to maintain order. There is a thankless task but a necessary one if the exchange of prisoners is to be proceeded with.

It was a group of air transportation men to whom Prime Minister St. Laurent said that the world can no longer afford the luxury of hatred or even indifference. They, of course, are keenly aware that every country is only a matter of hours from any other. One and all must come to the same realization that the world is our neighbourhood.

Alfred Dreyfus, son of a rich Jewish manufacturer in Paris and victim of "The Dreyfus Affair" was born this date 1859. A young captain of artillery, he was attached to the French general staff. He was tried by a court martial sitting in secret and convicted of delivering documents to the German government. He was transported to Devil's Island. Through the activity of his family and friends, notably Emile Zola, it was proved that the principle evidence against him had been forged by the chief of the intelligence department.

Summerside's proposal to combine in one building facilities for skating, a youth centre and agricultural exhibitions should go far towards easing the financial burden of building and maintaining facilities for each of these purposes. The generous offers of investment of Provincial and Town funds should make it attractive for the Summerside Trotting Association to go ahead with the project while at the same time the terms retain for the Town some control over how the facilities will be used.

Most accidents are not caused by drunken-drivers, hit-and-run drivers and other major violators. According to the president of the American Association of Motor Vehicle Administrators the greater number of accidents are caused by "the fellow who, when behind the wheel, loses all sense of courtesy and consideration for others." There was a time when discourtesy was apt to mean death at sword's point. Today it means death on the highway.

On Handling A Dragon



PUBLIC FORUM

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

FARMERS' PROBLEM

Sir, In the vernacular "a tip of this reader's hat" to your artist on his thousand-word cartoon editorial "The Thinker" (After Rodin) with its mental query: "How to put cows on a five-day week?"

The above reminded me of a management-labor squabble reported in my farm paper, in which it was indicated that "the machines have to be kept running. They don't tire, and the people who operate them—i.e., the workers—may devise all sorts of plans for staggering the work to three shifts around the clock; but the essential principle is productivity, which involves getting away from the anti-social idea of working as little as possible for as many dollars as possible."

It seems to me that something in the nature of the 8-hour day has been worked out on some of the co-operative farms in Saskatchewan. I cannot recall either the mechanism or the results; but, if I remember accurately, all those "best-laid schemes" by general consent of the members, became null and void, and bowed before the imperious decrees of the Harvest?

Meanwhile, as V.R.'s pictorial story makes very clear, the cows are not in the least impressed either with man's hurry, his demand for leisure plus going places, or his fear of abundance.

So, therefore, I have no answer to the query directed at your readers by "The Thinker"—and yet, I think it would be a fine exercise for a cartoon, some day, to show a scene of today's North American Abundance, together with the backward country, where, reportedly, 65 per cent of the human family "live intimately with hunger from birth to death", depicting fear and sorrow on the faces of the people in both areas, with the title: "Vale of Tears."

I am, Sir, etc. WESTERNER.

The Age Old Story

I will extol thee, O Lord; for thou hast lifted me up, and hast not made me foes to rejoice over me. . . O Lord, thou hast brought up my soul from the grave; thou hast kept me alive, that I should not go down to the pit.

Books Received

THE FIELDS OF HOME by Ralph Moody (in Canada by McLeod, 355 pp. \$4). The author of "Little Britches" writes for old as well as young in this tale of a boy on a farm. It is easy to forgive the youthful hero for his remarkable achievements in rearing to cultivation a run-down New England farm because his grandfather is much harder on his presumption than the reader could possibly be. The account of the taming of "the yella colt" is more convincing than that of humanizing a far more ferocious grandfather.

A FAIR WIND HOME by Ruth Moore (McLeod, Toronto, 312 pp. \$3.75). Merchants and pirates formerly belonged to the same profession. In eighteenth century Boston it was sometimes suspected that they still did so. At any rate when the brothers Carnvon were suspected of dealings with Ringold the pirate they found it necessary to move north and set about building up a new shipping empire. One of the Ellis brothers actually was one of Ringold's cut-throats but did not retain his ill-gotten gold long enough to discredit honesty. The author's real message, which may be followed through numerous adventures, seems to be that men can

Old Charlottetown

By P. E. L.

NEWSPAPER ITEMS

From the Examiner, Nov. 7, 1949:

Mark Butcher is making a splendid suite of furniture for Wilkey Lodge, 1000 F. The design and carving of the Noble Grand's chair, and other chairs, by Mr. Mark Wright, foreman of Mr. Butcher's establishment, are exceedingly appropriate and tasteful; and the upholstery is brilliant with the choicest plush.

Nov. 10: Mr. Alexander Stronach, mechanical superintendent of the Railway, has gone to Kingston, Ont., to look after the construction of two locomotives which are to be made there for the P. E. Island Railway.

At a meeting of the medical staff of the Charlottetown Hospital, held on Saturday, it was resolved that the sick poor receive advice and medicine free of charge, as out-door patients, each day between the hours of 10 and 11 o'clock.

Nov. 12: "They robbed me, a poor hard-working woman, of my gin, the dirty blackguards," said an old woman passing along the east end of Grafton Street, last night. Our informant on questioning her on the matter, learned that she had been returning to her home, at the east end, after working all day, and had with her a pint of "Old Tom". While passing one of the street corners she was set upon by two roughs, who seized her gin and ran off.

A public meeting of the inhabitants of Breadalbane and vicinity was held on Tuesday last to take into consideration the best methods of detecting the person or persons who feloniously set fire to the mills, dwelling house and barns of John Gillis, on the morning of October 31st, and the mills and dwelling house of Charles Murray, the house of Charles Stewart, at an early hour on the morning of Tuesday, 4th inst. The meeting, being largely attended, showed how the feelings of the people were aroused in the matter. A subscription list was opened and the sum of \$300 was subscribed, to be offered as a reward for such information as will lead to the detection and conviction of the offenders.

Automobile Insurance

(Windsor Star) What is described as a detail study of insurance company practices, and their effect on automobile insurance costs, has been ordered by Mr. T. D. MacDonald, federal combines investigator. It is purely a fact-finding inquiry. No violation of anti-combines laws is suspected.

This can be a useful investigation, as much for the companies concerned as for their patrons. They have mutual rights to the best in service; and with automobile insurance premium payments mounting annually, some qualified oversight of that service is in order.

Ottawa reports say the inquiry was opened following complaints that some of the practices mentioned may have led to increasing costs. Whatever the facts of the matter, there can be no better time to set them straight.

Evidence of rapid expansion of automobile insurance is provided by figures showing that between 1951 and 1952 premiums increased from \$105,300,000 to \$137,700,000, while claims were mounting from \$85,000,000 to \$76,500,000. Yet these details will raise as many questions as they can answer. They show that while claims were increasing by \$11,500,000, premiums went up \$32,400,000. If those figures are reliable guides, was that wide spread between income and loss anything unusual unless there is a woman to straighten it all out.

The Poet's Corner

OCTOBER

Here was October, here was ruddy October, the old harvest, wrapped like a beggared satchel in a coat Of tattered tanager and partridge feathers, Scattering jack-o-lanterns everywhere To give the field-mice pumpkin-colored moons. His red clay pipe had trailed across the land Staining the trees with colors of the sun; East, west, south, north, the ceremonial fune Blue and enchanted as the soul of air Drifted its incense. Incense of the wild, Incense of earth fulfilled, ready to sleep The sufficed dark slumber of the bear All winter, underneath a frozen star.

—Stephen Vincent Benet.

come ant ougo warranted? Questions of that nature inevitably will be asked, and the inquiry can prove or disprove them. Automobile insurance is provided by a great number of companies, represented in a general way by several associations. It could be that for their own long-range good they need better integration, of the kind that governmental supervision over rates would provide. It strikes a growing number of persons as odd that bank and small loan company interest rates, railway rates, and the rates charged by various utilities should be fixed by official action, while automobile insurance remains beyond their control. They should receive their answer, one way or the other, when Mr. MacDonald completes his study.

Motor vehicle insurance is big business now and inevitably will get bigger. That is all to the good, for the greater the number of insured drivers, the greater the financial protection. In this expansion the companies which maintain the lowest possible rates should not be compromised by a few others that may believe freedom from restrictions is freedom from overcharge.

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Notes By The Way

A Red shock-worker in Hungary is reported to be turning out his 1937 output. But we'll bet he's still waiting for his 1954, 1955, and 1956 vacations.—Windsor Star.

Dr. Charles Kettering, long chief of General Motors research, says he doesn't want experienced men in his laboratory, because experienced men are always telling him things can't be done. He prefers youngsters who don't know things can't be done; they go ahead and do them. As he says, man's greatest fault is his automatic resistance to change.—Toledo Blade.

Research carried out by the Finnish biologist Prof. Erkki Helme indicates that the secretion of zinc in cancer patients is less than for healthy individuals. Experiments on white mice have borne out the theory that zinc may have an important bearing on the growth of cancer. Professor Helme believes that tests he has developed may be used to detect cancer.—Finlandia Pictorial.

The objective Royal Institute of International Affairs in London has issued an information paper on Canada called "Springs of Canadian Power" (Oxford University Press, Toronto) with a cool assessment of the future of this nation. Through these careful phrases shine the greatness that is to be if this country is governed with wisdom, blessed with peace and remains strong in confidence. By the end of the century she should be a major power, this expectation based on "the probable consequences in the material sphere of the industrial development now taking place, and also on the increasing part she has played in world affairs during the last twenty-five years."—Ottawa Journal.

Diplomacy, when dealing with critical world issues, is a serious business. We sometimes think more success would attend it if there were a greater play of humor did develop in the United Nations. Though not in the formal discussions, United Kingdom Secretary of State Selwyn Lloyd asked what he thought of a speech by Andrei Y. Vishinsky. The erudite and precise Cambridge-educated Briton replied: "If I may use the idiom of the be-hop, dig that broken record!" And when Mr. Vishinsky was asked whom he favored in the World Series, he answered: "It is a very great event, but I cannot interfere in the internal affairs of the United States." If there were more such interludes around the United Nations the atmosphere would be more pleasant and possibly in good humor—even a diplomat—he's apt to be more agreeable. It's difficult to reach agreement among

people who snarl at each other in a nasty manner.—Windsor Daily Star.

To John Keats, "Beauty is truth, truth beauty, that is all ye know on earth, and all ye need to know." And in the various ages throughout the course of human development there has been a reputable science of aesthetics, which has found application in more than one field of practice. But it has been left for the modern age, with its ruthless processes of commercialization, to turn the cult, or the science, of beauty into a lucrative business, a business so big that today the commercial encouragement of beauty ranks as one of our major industries. Beauty industry now ranges over a wide field of employment, from the more ordinary hairdresser to the more exotic facial specialist; it calls on the services of a wide variety of technicians, from the trades range from the "couturier" (as against the more functional dress-maker) to the Jeweller. Financially it represents a business which in the cosmetics section alone can measure its turnover in hundreds of millions of dollars annually.—Halifax Chronicle Herald.

In these days, when the repeated, and successful, effort to medical science is directed consistently towards the lengthening of the span of human life, it is somewhat surprising to find a member of the faculty of McGill University suggesting that "a short but enjoyable life can sometimes be better than a long boring one". The argument appears to assume that the only guarantee of enjoyment in life consists in activity, while boredom is the inevitable lot of the life in which such physical activity is precluded. If this is a true reading of the argument, then it presents a danger of thought which is all too prevalent in these times, the danger of that philosophy which has been called "activism". Only by doing, runs this creed only by immersing ourselves more and more fully in the multifarious activities of our society, can we really live. The thinker, the dreamer, the idealist—these are no more than half alive. Beyond doubt there is much that is true and valuable in the idea of activity as the expression of the full life; the best of Christian philosophy has always insisted with the Apostle James that "Faith without works is dead". But to emphasize the value of the works contemplative side of life, to insist that only in action, rather than in contemplation, can enjoyment be found—that is grossly to underestimate both the powers and the pleasure of the mind.—Halifax Chronicle Herald.

PROFESSIONAL CARDS

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