THE GUARDIAN

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"Covers Prince Edward Island Like the Dew"

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

THURSDAY, JULY 22, 1954

Alternatives In Asia

A popular misconception regarding apparent Anglo-American differences concerning foreign policy in Asia is that two alternatives alone are in the offing. The one, for advocating which British Foreign Secretary Anthony Eden has been accused of "appeasement" is a broad system of general guarantees, backed by firm commitments on the part of all participating nations to resist aggression. The other is US Secretary of State Dulles' scheme for a tightly-knit NATO-type defence pact.

A moment's reflection will suffice to show that these two proposals are not alternatives at all, but rather two aspects of the same policy. The United Kingdom view is that a Locarno-type of agreement to resist aggression has more chance of winning the support of potential allies in Asia than the Southeast Asia Treaty Organization, popularly known as "SEATO", advocated by Washington.

The British proposal of a broad system of guarantees backed by firm commitments to resist aggression is designed to draw the teeth from the Chinese proposal, put forward by Chou En-lai at the opening of the Geneva conference, that the peace of Asia should be maintained solely by the Asian countries themselves, through "the assumption of mutual obligations." The real alternatives in Asia lie between Chou En-lai's proposal, which has the blessing, not unnaturally, of Moscow, and whatever version of Anglo-American policy is finally adopted.

Village Pride

It is a curious characteristic of the British that they can appear calm and almost unconcerned in what appears to be a fearful calamity, yet some incident that in itself appears insignificant, excites a public commotion.

The other day the ancient village of Slimbridge, in Gloucestershire, became furious with officialdom and withdrew from a competition for the cleanest and most tidy village in the country. The reason for the anger was the action of the county highways department which had sprayed the grass verges in the parish with selective weed killer.

So intense is the pride in many English villages, notes the Hamilton Spectator, that this high-handed application of weed killer is looked upon as downright unsporting, while its effects are certain to ruin the immaculate verges and the village's chance of victory.

The Council for the Preservation of Rural England was reported to be "deeply concerned" about the weed killer. The Ministry of Agriculture had appointed a committee to inquire into its effects and, was advising the Department of Highways to "proceed cautiously" until the committee's findings were announced. In the meantime the village of Slimbridge is conducting itself with dignified aloofness.

A Great Scottish Export

During the last quarter of the eighteenth century there was born a new industry in Scotland—the manufacture of large quantities of tartan in weaving mills for sale at home and abroad. For many centuries, says The Scotsman, tartan had been manufactured in the Highlands as a "home industry," and we shall never know the name of the weaver who cut the first web of tartan from his loom.

Simple check patterns have been made throughout the world for thousands of years, as witness those of the early Egyptians. A hoard of Roman coins of the third century A.D. was recently found at Falkirk, and they were wrapped up in a fragment of cloth which might well be defined as "tartan."

The question: "When is a tartan not a tartan?" has aroused heated argument for many years. The repeal of the "Disklting Act", which had forbidden the use of Highland dress for many years after Culloden, the raising of the Highland regiments and the Fencible Corps, and the fickle trend of fashion all contributed towards the wider demand for tartan during the dying years of the eighteenth century.

The growth of the new industry which followed in the next twenty-five years was speeded by the war with France, the visit of King George the Fourth to Edinburgh, and the novels of Sir Walter Scott. With the added help of the new industrial and economic developments in Scotland, expansion was rapid. The clatter of the looms grew louder, and by 1825 tartans were being exported in bulk to Europe and the Americas. There is documentary evidence of various patterns being exported to Montreal, Nova Scotia and Quebec between 1810 and 1816. In June 1817, a Glasgow firm called Wilson Stow & Company were writing to the weaving mills for tartans which they stated were "wanted for the Charleston Market for Negroes." By 1818, Messrs. John Sommers, of Midcalder, were doing a considerable trade exporting tartans to Rio de Janeiro. In addition to lengths of cloth of various setts, they were sending out cloaks of the Stuart, Caledonia, Wellington, Robertson, and other patterns, advising the weavers "to see that the Tartan in cases be well pressed and finished, but as to the durability of the fabric, if it look beautiful at first, this is all the Brazilians care for and they like changes." The cloaks cost between 18s and 25s each, the lowest priced being made of seven and a quarter yards of tartan at 1s 8d per yard. The lining cost 3s, whilst the balance represented the cost of making!

The days of the tartan "novelties" were yet to come; the pink celluloid baby dressed in kilt and glengarry was yet unborn. The New World was ignorant of the lowly pen-wiper and the exotic tartan rug in "ancient" patterns—for export only.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Canada's hog population is up 16 per cent from June of last year, which, however, was 23 per cent below the 1952 figure. The Dominion Bureau of Statistics predicts that there will be a further increase before November.

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The instability of French governments is always a source of concern to her friends. In the case of Indo-China, however, it seems to have been the trump card which brought agreement within the time limit set by Premier Mendes-France.

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A Soviet force is approaching this country. In contrast with other movement in this jet age, however, its rate of progress is almost negligible. Two scientific stations near the North Pole will probably take years to drift into Canadian territory.

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The Salk anti-polio vaccine was not tried in this Province. A report from Texas, however, indicates that two children who had been given the vaccine have been diagnosed as having polio. The vaccine may be valuable but it obviously does not guarantee immunity.

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Wilson Barrett, English actor, died this date 1904. He first appeared at Halifax in "East Lynne" in 1864. As manager of the Princess's Theatre he produced "The Lights of London" and "The Silver King." In 1895 he produced "The Sign of the Cross."

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The forthcoming autumn general election in the Northwest Territories will no doubt focus a good deal of attention upon that fast-developing part of the country. Sooner or later the more inhabited areas will have to be accorded provincial status.

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The principle of ministerial responsibility was upheld in Britain when the Minister of Agriculture resigned because officials of his department decided to make a model farm of a requisitioned property instead of returning it to the original owners. He probably had never heard of the affair but very properly assumed full responsibility.

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Political mudslinging began in ancient Rome, says the National Geographic Society. All candidates for office wore the white toga—"toga candida". If they were unpopular, people threw mud at them till their white raiment became the "toga maculosa", the toga defiled with mud. Cicero referred to senators thus disgraced as "senatores maculosi," polluted senators.

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We are by no means the only Province with a teacher shortage problem. Last year 556 permit teachers had to be licensed in Manitoba. This is a decline from 1947 when a record 871 permits had to be issued, but the teacher shortage is still the most pressing problem facing the Manitoba Department of Education.

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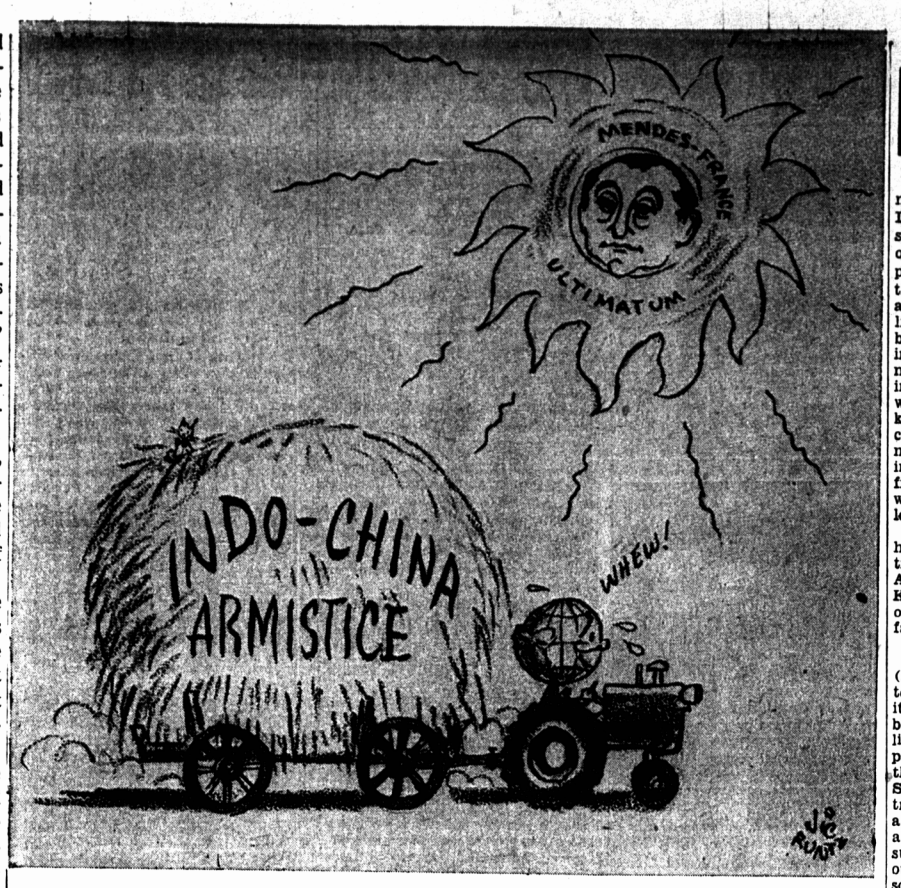
Russia made a grave mistake when she boycotted the Security Council before Korea, missing the opportunity of vetoing intervention by the United Nations. There is a danger, at least, that the United States' determination not to be a party to the Indo-China pact may deprive her of a valuable status in Pacific affairs. On the other hand it may enable her to avoid the odium of being a party to partitioning Viet Nam



Hay Made While The Sun Shined

NOTES BY THE WAY

A backyard swing designed to accomodate seven children without pushing or shoving is an ideal way to attract eight children. —Edmonton Journal.

Times have changed! People go out every night now about the times they used to come in.—Sudbury Star.

Getting a week's pay for a day's work is one of the biggest evils of the modern economic system—St. Thomas Times-Journal.

A doctor claims there are 520 muscles that have to do with the moving of the human body. And most of them aren't functioning when a boy is called to get up for school.—Toronto Star.

Hearing ability can vary throughout the day says the American Aid Association. Hearing usually is keenest around 7 a.m. dullest about 1 p.m. It declines for a time right after meals. Light exercise makes us hear better, but hearing is duller for a time after strenuous exercise. Today's Health.

The city of Moncton will gain an increase in population this year of more than 2,000 by reason of the decision of Sunny Brae citizens voting by more than three to one for incorporation with the railway Hub and the acceptance by Moncton ratepayers of this application by a vote on Friday of 1156 to 88. The details of the amalgamation will be worked out during the next few months. —Amherst News and Sentinel.

An iceberg towering 275 feet above the waterline, which means about seven times that bulk is under water, has been sighted off Conception Bay, on Newfoundland's east coast. This is another case of maldistribution. The 'berg is unwanted there, but think what a boon it would be these hot days if it were sitting in Lake St. Clair, away from the shipping lanes. —Windsor Daily Star.

Department of Higher Criticism. or Walter Yust, the Encyclopaedia Britannica's editor-in-chief, addressing the annual library symposium at Kent State University, Kent, Ohio: "Most of my reading today is done in bed and I prefer a lightweight book, because if I do go to sleep and the lightweight book fails to fall on my chest it doesn't wake me up."—New York Herald-Tribune.

If nature had not stepped in, reports B. Tucker Abbott, a Smithsonian Institute biologist, the world might long ago have been overlaid with oysters. Abbott says that there is one species, common on the Pacific coast, that lays as many as 10,000,000,000 eggs a year. It nature had not seen to it that the survival rate is small, Abbott reports that the offspring of a single oyster in five generations would constitute a mass equal to eight worlds. — Philadelphia Inquirer.

As one part of an ambitious education program, India plans to open 500 more multi-purpose secondary schools within the next two years. Every high school in the country will be required to teach general science, social studies and crafts, and grants will be made to improve laboratories. As the result of these policies, India will acquire in growing numbers the trained young people it needs for its economic and social development. — Ottawa Citizen.

The news that Sydney is about to get its first post-war apartment building is significant of a gradual change in the housing habits of Nova Scotians. Until a few years ago an apartment house was almost an oddity in the cities and towns of this and other provinces of the Maritimes, while such buildings mushroomed in most other Canadian communities. Nova Scotians went in for single detached homes, or so-called upper and lower flats, often built as conversions of large homes which became too big for the housewife to handle because of smaller families or the growing cost of domestic help. But the popularity of apartment living has now begun to hit Nova Scotia. It is still not as popular as elsewhere in Canada, where tenants usually are waiting at the door before the last nail is driven. But the trend is here.—Halifax Chronicle-Herald.

Britain's new electric power plants will be powered by oil or by atomic power, says Geoffrey Lloyd, British Minister of Fuel and Power. A station now being built at Marchwood will be equipped with a dual-firing apparatus, coal or oil. There is plenty of coal in Britain but costs of operation make it more and more difficult to produce it economically. Oil is coming into favor, as it is in Canada. The coming of atomic power will enormously strengthen British industry as there is almost no hydro-electric power. Also it will save coal for household heating, a priority project in the United Kingdom.—London Free Press.

London is certainly becoming a cosmopolitan community. Latest evidence of this is the announcement that the Federated Moslem Society of Canada and the United States is to meet here next year. The seventy members of the local Moslem community are expected to play host to 1,000 co-religionists. Not many of us may realize that we have a Moslem community, and we may be equally hazy about some of the thirty or more other religious bodies existing in the city—which is perhaps an index of our degree of religious tolerance. —London Free Press.

—Who says young Canada is going to the dogs? Who says young Canada has no ambition? At least one answer to the general charge that "young people ain't what they used to be" was given the other day at the Portage la Prairie plowing matches when Gerald Lyttle, 14-year-old Grade VIII boy of High Bluff, Man., won both the Manitoba and the Western Canada plowing championships. He won at what is called the plow capital of Manitoba, on the Harold Batters farm which has been in the same family for three generations. — Lethbridge Herald.

Recently we heard of a photographer who makes many ocean crossings by air, and at various times has tried to get a good picture of the Greenland icecap, over which he frequently passed. Always heavy cloud or bad weather frustrated him. Finally a day came when he could look from his plane upon the awesome majesty of the Greenland peaks thrusting their jagged spires of rock thousands of feet above a mile-thick layer of glacial ice. Atmospheric conditions were perfect for a solar picture. But he didn't have a bit of film in his camera. Assuming conditions would be bad again, he had used the last of his film on pictures of himself before leaving England. —Windsor Star.

Clog dancing, from which modern tap-dancing has been developed, originated in the four northern countries of England where big annual competitions were held until fifty years ago. In that agricultural and mining district people wore clogs and tradition informs us that as part of the harvest home celebrations a hay wagon was set up as a platform on the village green and a dancing trophy was competed for. This was in the form of a leather belt adorned with medallions. The art was somehow allowed to die out, but now is being revived. There is solo dancing, dancing in groups, mostly by children, and pedestal dancing on a low platform twenty inches square. The trophy is a leather belt, but a red one. —Exchange.

A Christian name actually prevented a woman from becoming queen. That was the case of Princess Urraca of Castile, daughter of Alphonso VIII and Eleanor of England. In the year 1200 King Phillip August of France had his 13-year-old son, Lois VIII crowned. Fearing lest the young king die without an heir, he sent a delegation to Spain to bring a Castilian princess for him. Urraca was then 16 and as "beautiful as the dawn," but when the French envoys heard her name, they were appalled at the thought of having a queen thus named. They instead asked Alphonso VIII for the hand of his younger daughter, Blanca, who became Blanche of Castle, mother of Saint Louis. — North American Newspaper Alliance

The Poet's Corner

TOAD

On a level stone he sits,
Buddha-wise;
Peace entwines his brow, and knits
Both his eyes.

There is dank primordial green
In his cloak:
There are sounds, Pleistocene,
In his croak.

Lineage, old as Pharaohs,
Weights his lids;
His the land eons before
The pyramids.

Why has nature been so kind,
Profligate
To this creature without mind,
Vertebrate?

—Sylvia Auxier.

—Sylvia Auxier, in the New York Times.

Old Charlottetown and P. E. I.

SCOTTISH GATHERING

"The first annual Scottish Gathering under the auspices of the Caledonian Club, (previously known as the Highland Society) came off, according to announcement, at Government House grounds on Wednesday last, and was, in point of numbers as well as in competition, management and financial success, a most creditable affair. Each of the Counties was well represented, while Charlottetown sent forth 'her beauty and her chivalry' to the Gathering, and held jubilee in honour of the event. There were also several visitors from Nova Scotia and New Brunswick. Among the latter we recognized the editor of the St. John Telegraph . . .

"The Highland pipe music on this occasion was very much admired, as were also the running and leaping of Mr. A. W. Fraser. This gentleman hails from East Point, but was formerly a resident of Antigonish. His dancing of the Gillie Callum, or Sword Dance, drew forth the hearty plaudits of the spectators, and a complimentary speech from His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor. His graceful running and leaping were also highly complimented, and although not successful in the foot race, owing, as he considered, to want of fair play, in being pushed or someway interfered with, yet he is prepared to run any man in Prince Edward Island over the same ground for £20. In feats of strength a Mr. Frederick Horne surpassed 11 competitors, and was a general favorite with the crowd.

At the conclusion of the games, the Hon. Col. Gray gave a short address, after which Mrs. Dundas distributed the prizes.

—The Vindicator, Aug. 24, 1864.

The Passing Scene

By Observer

KIPLING REVIVAL

Tell it not in Gath, publish it not in the streets of Askelon; but I read the other day where a Russian literary critic expressed the opinion that the best Western poet of this century and, indeed, the only one who amounted to anything, was Mr. Rudyard Kipling. (Incidentally, two mistakes, both minor ones, can be detected in the statement. Mr. Kipling was not a product of this century, having been born in 1865 and having written at least some of his better known books before the turn of the century. Strictly speaking, he was not a Westerner, having been born in India He did, of course, come from an English family and he was as British in his views and outlooks as any man who every lived.)

It is interesting, though perhaps, to note that the Russian's tribute comes at a time when some American critics are bringing Mr Kipling out for reappraisal, most of which appears to be very favourable to that poet of Empire.

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Perhaps it is pure coincidence (a convenient word often attached to the unexplainable) and perhaps it isn't. That the Americans should be rediscovering Mr. Kipling's literary genius and worth is not particularly surprising; after all the great man lived in the United States for several years and he contributed a good deal in one way and another to British-American amity. But that a Russian (presumably a Communist) should go out of his way to praise him is something not quite as easy to understand. It would be hard to think of anything that Mr. Kipling detested more strenuously than the Marxist gospel on which modern Communism is supposed to rest. It may be that, in speaking up for the poet whom the British of all political parties revere very highly, the Russians, or some of them, are trying to prove that they and the British have one hero in common which the Americans do not share; but that view presupposes that the Russian critics are unaware of the poet's current revival in the U. S. A., a presupposition that is hardly warranted.

It could be that Mr. Kipling is to be given the dubious posthumous honour of being made a meeting point for the Big Three. The more I think of this possible alternative, however, the more foolish it seems. The Russian could have selected a thousand poets more suitable in every way for that experiment.

Perhaps a few Russian intellectuals are beginning to feel that the shrinking of the British Empire was a bad thing for the world since it led, in a sort of devious way, to American ascendency in world affairs. I suppose the simplest thing to assume is that the Russian critic was just speaking for himself without any political basis or intrigue in mind. In that case, the man probably is on the way to Siberia by now. We must wish him well

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It is, of course, true that Mr. Kipling was an imperialist in the old-fashioned sense of that word. His poems are shot through and through with faith in the supremacy of the British Empire. He believed in the devine right of the Anglo-Saxon to inherit the earth. It was not merely the political prerogative of the white man—preferably the English white man—to conquer and civilize "the new caught, sullen peoples"; it was his solemn heaven-sent duty to do so

No poet, with the possible exception of Homer, ever sahg the glories of battle with more enthusiasm. The idea of disarming in order to encourage peace was, to him, a shame. In his view a nation can hope for peace only when it is prepared for war It is a rather unpleasant thought, to be sure, but there is sense in it. At any rate, that is the position of the Free World today; preparing for war which everybody hopes will never come.

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Yet, despite his imperialism, Mr. Kipling was a great democrat, too. In peace and in war he praised the "common man", a term now in disrepute but which in Kipling's time was in popular use. He had no grievance against "the big brass general", but it was the "man in khaki kit who can handle men a bit" (that is to say, the sergeant) who was the hero of his soldier poems.

Nor did he have anything against employers and the bosses of industry, but his finest eulogies were reserved for "the men like to gods that do the work for which they draw the wage". At the same time it is clear that the idea of any one class of men lording it over all other groups — whether employers or labour unions—was repugnant to Mr. Kipling.

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The imperialism which Mr. Kipling preached and which he loved may be gone for ever; certainly it is gone for this generation and the next But the farther it recedes below the horizon the easier it is for the student of history to realize that it was not wholly a bad political and social phase. The Commonwealth of which he dreamed and the beginnings of which he lived to see is being assailed, as all democratic institutions are being assailed, by an imperialism more rigid and a thousand times more harmful than any that has gone before

The chief concern of the Commonwealth and of all free peoples is not the civilizing of alien races but the preservation of whatever civilization that has been achieved. In that concern and in the mission that springs from it, Mr. Kipling's imperialism, with its emphasis on social justice, buttressed by law and order (though in practice, of course, it did not always work out that way), can bring to the new something needful and good from the old.

The Age Old Story

And it came to pass, as Jesus sat at meat in the house, behold, many publicans and sinners came and sat down with him and his disciples. And when the Pharisees saw it, they said unto his disciples, Why eateth your Master with publicans and sinners? But when Jesus heard that, he said unto them, They that be whole need not a physician, but they that are sick.

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