

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 TUESDAY, JAN. 26, 1954

A Realistic Approach

The Randall commission report on world economic policy for the guidance of President Eisenhower and Congress is notable for its practical approach to the various problems. It does not express any consistent philosophy, except perhaps recognition of the fact that the United States must give a lead in keeping world trade in a healthy state. Even here it is also emphasized that other countries must also take action "as the United States cannot do this job alone."

A reduction of tariff, but a gradual one spread over three years, adding flexibility to agricultural price support policies, including scrapping of the International Wheat Agreement; the ending of the "buy American act" and of the requirement that certain cargoes be carried in American bottoms all add up to a general freeing of the channels of trade.

None of the suggested changes can be made without directly hurting someone and opposition to the proposals will no doubt be strong. The task will be to convince individuals that they stand to benefit more by the general improvement in trade conditions than they will lose by the dropping of the particular restrictions in which they have an interest.

The success of the proposals would mean an enormous saving for the taxpayer in the United States and other countries and at the same time permit something much more resembling a "natural" trading situation to be established. This last may be the principle difficulty to overcome. The United States has passed the period of having to protect "infant industries" and should be ready for something like free trade. Many other countries are only now embarking on the course of protection which the United States has followed for generations.

A Good Preface

Whatever faults or shortcomings may be ascribed to former President Harry S. Truman, no one will say that he has an unadaptable personality. Called to office in one of the very critical periods of American history, he assumed the burdens of State with a cheerful vigor that astounded his political friends and foes alike. If his place in history is not in the company of the very great—and that is by no means certain—he certainly will be remembered as one who took to executive power and responsibility "as to the manner born."

Now, back home in Independence, Mo., Mr. Truman has another adjustment to make. This time it is from the light that beats upon the presidency to the comparative isolation of ordinary citizenship. According to recent reports he is making it in the same adaptable manner that characterized his sudden call to the seat of the mighty. He is writing his memoirs; he is not at all homesick for the White House; he does not miss the pomp and circumstance which surrounded him for seven years.

Mr. Truman's memoirs, when completed, ought to be highly interesting and informative reading. Meanwhile, his happy manner, as he sees another in the place of authority which he himself vacated only a year ago, is providing a very good preface indeed to the story he is putting down on paper.

More Trade Or Less?

"If better access to the U. S. market for the industries in which Canada has natural advantages is not forthcoming," says the monthly review of the Bank of Nova Scotia, "it is almost inevitable that political pressures in Canada for increased protection will gather strength. . . The tendency might well be to develop more diversified but less efficient industries in Canada behind added tariff protection."

"No one who knows the history of Canada or the climate of its politics can doubt the truth of that statement. Protective policies in the United States have always been answered by the same sort of policies in Canada, with great damage to the business of both nations. Under Mr. Cordell Hull's reciprocal trade agreements policy of the nineteen-thirties North America has been emerging steadily from a long period of trade restriction and impoverishment. It would be tragic indeed if this course were now reversed."

"Despite the pinpricks of American agricultural restrictions and Canadian dumping

duties, the clear fact is that the two nations are doing more business together, to their mutual advantage, than ever before and more than any other two nations in the world. And at the moment when the protectionists on both sides of the border are becoming articulate again, the American people are beginning to understand the importance of the Canadian market better than ever."

The Bank letter adds that there is the best of reasons to hope for a further expansion of the trade on which the whole economy of Canada is largely based. But it is just as well that all these facts, with their hopes and dangers, should be brought into the open and candidly considered in what may turn out to be a year of vital decisions.

Safe Driving Rewarded

Automobile insurance companies are making a direct contribution to safe driving by lowering rates for accident-free drivers. The lower rates, proposed to become effective after February 1, are substantial enough to attract new clients from the ranks of uninsured owners and operators. While it may not be universally true, it is true in general that insured drivers take fewer chances, are more considerate of others in doubtful cases of who "may be right."

The lower rates, amounting to 20 per cent for accident-free drivers during the previous three years, are based in part upon a declining accident trend across Canada and in part upon a rational reclassification of drivers by the insurance companies. Up to now there have been four categories to which different rates are applicable. Under the new plan there will be seven, with appropriate advantages to safe drivers within each category.

"It should not be overlooked," comments the Globe and Mail, "that there is also a favorable social significance in the new rates. That the public cost of litigation arising from highway crashes should be reduced may be the least of these general benefits. One of the greatest will be the community's assurance that our increasing networks of fine highways are losing their reputation as deathtraps. Nevertheless, there still will be accidents. The automobile is still a dangerous machine. The onus on licensing authorities is as great as ever to weed out the incompetent."

EDITORIAL NOTES

India a republic, 1950.

Foundation Day, Australia, 1788.

In Saskatchewan farmers are using baled straw as a building material, particularly for barns for livestock. Coatings of stucco and plaster will presumably prevent the stock from eating themselves out of house and home and deter the allegorical wolf from blowing them down.

Charles George (Chinese) Gordon, the hero of Khartoum, died this date, 1885. He fought in the Crimea and then assisted the Chinese Empire against Russian aggression. After various appointments, he was sent to the Sudan to evacuate the Egyptian population of the Sudan, endangered by the revolt of the Mahdi. He was surrounded at Khartoum and killed after holding out for five months. A relief party arrived two days later.

A confidential report on the Reserve Army is being studied by the General Staff. Prepared by the Conference of Defence Associations, its details were not revealed because the association felt that early release would do more harm than good. It may well be, of course that Defence Minister Claxton will decide that, as with the Maigny Commission report on the Navy, publication will be in the best interest of the service.

The cage egg-laying system—recognized by British poultry experts as the most efficient method of egg production—is now being adopted by egg producers in Canada, Holland, Denmark, Switzerland and the West Indies. Features of the cages, supplied in multiples of six, are easy erection, a foolproof trough system for watering, and cleanliness. Winners of several agricultural awards, the cages are to be exhibited at this year's British Industries Fair.

Comparisons with existing pipelines indicate that the Trans-Canada natural gas pipe will be the biggest and longest in the world. The Big Inch line, from Texas to New York is 1,381 miles long, 24 inches in diameter. The Little Big Inch, connecting the same points, is 1,475 miles long and 20 inches in diameter. The Inter-provincial Pipeline, from Alberta to Sarnia, is 1,765 miles long, 30 inches in diameter at start, down to 16 inches at finish. Trans-Canada will be 2,240 miles long when finished, and either 30 or 36 inches in diameter.

Colours For '54. Ride the Super Perkle 'S'. Drive your friends mad with envy. Please show me something in dark blue with a yellow top or yellow with a blue top! The new licenses are out!

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.

RETREAT FROM LEARNING

Sir,—Perhaps the most specious sophism yet to be advanced by apologists for "progressivism" in education is the brazen claim that it is more democratic than "traditionalism." It is a human tendency to try to rationalize even one's most indefensible actions. In Nazi parlance, Hitler never enslaved a country; he merely placed it under his "benign" aegis. Thus, in pedagogical spheres, the helter-skelter flight from intellectuality and culture is labeled "democratic" and "scientific." All sensible people would opt in favor of the extension of the privileges of a good education to the hoi polloi. Modern educators, however, went off the beam when they decided, in their esoteric omniscience, that such a thing could not be done without redefining, denaturing, and almost burlesquing education. Therefore, on the strength of an unwarranted assumption, they proceeded to break with the past.

The experience accumulated through millennia of onerous effort was thrown overboard as so much bunkum. The great disciplines were superannuated. It was their belief that conditions in a democratic world were so different as to render all former standards obsolete and require a re-orientation of the whole social set-up. The luminaries of yesterday were only half lit in comparison with the star of the first magnitude that illumined the present day educational world—John Dewey. True, Dewey didn't believe in God, he didn't believe in good and evil; he neither did he believe in absolutes. But he appreciated the importance of "parlor stunts" and "tinkering hobbies" on the curriculum of "life-adjustment" education. And that was more useful than religion, or Latin, in this practical work-a-day world.

Pedagogues resent the charge that progressive education is a "retreat from learning." How else could they qualify the following remarks that a professor of education addressed to a graduate teaching position: "Emphasis on subject matter and knowledge of it are out-dated, because we don't teach subject matter, we teach children." He also stressed "de-

The Poet's Corner. SELF-ANALYSIS. The tumult of my fretted mind Gives me expression of a kind; But it is faulty, harsh, not plain— My work has the incompetence of pain.

I am consumed with a slow fire, For righteousness is my desire; Towards that good goal I cannot whip my will, I am a tired horse that jibs upon a hill. I desire virtue, though I love her not— I have no faith in her when she is got; I fear that she will bind and make me slave And send me songless to the sullen grave. I am like a man who fears to take a wife, And frets his soul with wantons all his life. With rich, unholy foods I stuff my maw; When I am sick, then I believe in law.

Notes By The Ways

We used to know them as "sins" but the younger generation calls them "experiences."—Brandon Sun. Briton says there is a blonde ghost in his house who wears lipstick. Radio advertisers can hardly wait to find out what brand she uses.—Hamilton Spectator.

A sociologist states that most of our troubles are due to the fact that nowadays "families don't plunge into things as a unit." He may be encouraged by the news that a Boston mother, father and son have been arrested for an armored car robbery.—Edmonton Journal.

A friend back in Paris after four years, incautiously chose an unfamiliar restaurant. The meal was terrible, and he called the waiter to complain. Yes, the waiter agreed, the food was awful. Why not try the little place across the road? My friend asked why the waiter was so sure it was good. "Because I own it," he replied. "This," he shrugged at his surroundings, "is where I find my customers."—London New Statesman.

Pig pens near Wallaceburg have been raided and nine pigs weighing about seventy-five pounds apiece taken. Police have asked farmers to take better care of their porcine herds. What we would like to know is how anyone can keep a seventy-five pound hog and keep him from rending the wicket with his fearsome screams. Did they use chloroform? To swine a live hog—in silhouette—must surely be the denier of the art of rustling.—London Free Press.

I am, Sir, etc., W. J. ENRIGHT, Charlottetown.

LIQUOR ADVERTISING. Sir,—Quite recently, in one of our Island papers, a writer went to much pains to convince us that the newspapers in this Province should be asked to carry advertisements of rum, brandy and gin. He said we were very unfair to those publishers who depend so much for profit on the ads that they carry. Besides he maintained that we sell a commodity that we believe is necessary and good and then hinder the sale by choking off advertising.

The Age Old Story. And the king said, Is there not yet any of the house of Saul that I may show the kindness of God unto him? And Ziba said unto the king, Jonathan hath yet a son, which is lame on his feet. . . And David said, Behold thy servant! And David said unto him, Fear not: for I will surely show thee kindness for Jonathan thy father's sake, and will restore thee all the land of Saul thy father; and thou shalt eat bread at my table continually. . .

The Passing Scene. By Observer. THE PLOUGHMAN POET. Now that the big night has come and gone perhaps a non-Scotsman may be allowed to mention the great man's name. I wouldn't go so far as the American poet Whittier who was quoted as saying that Robert Burns belonged to Scotland no more than to the rest of the world; there are too many Scotsmen around me and I have been told that the Scotch version of anger is a fearful thing. I would, however, agree with another American authority who stated that "no other writer of his times has so strong a hold on the affections of the world." Partial evidence of that is the fact that even people who (like myself) find the Burns dialect heavy going read his poetry over and over and, apparently, get a great deal out of it. It was said of a distinguished poet-naturalist that he was the only person in the world who could make literature out of a cow. So far as I have been able to determine Burns was the only poet who could make literature out of a mouse. Neither creature is generally credited with being a natural source of inspiration. One of Burns' biographers wrote that in his opinion the poet's greatest power lay in the fact that he started life as a ploughman. ("Ploughman" is quite alright in common talk, but it must be "ploughman" when one is speaking or writing about Burns.) However that may be, it is true that almost everything he wrote shows close kinship with homely and earthly things. If he had not been a ploughman, or at least engaged in some kind of farming, it is not likely that he would have been so familiar, as in fact he was with the songs and ballads of the countryside. And it was these songs and ballads which formed the skeleton of the great body of poetry he created. Then, too, his work in the fields helped him to see and understand the joys and the hopes and the tribulations of the common people, something which always has been considered a great aid to the writing of poetry, especially of the Burns type. The poet Lowell, in describing in one of his poems a trip he had made by train around the Scottish countryside, mentioned a fellow-passenger who brought up the name of Burns: "He spoke of Burns: men rude and rough Pressed round to hear the praise of one whose heart was made of manly, simple stuff, As homespun as their own. And when he read, they forward leaned Drinking with thirsty hearts and ears His brook-like songs whom glory never weaned From humble smiles and tears." The fact that Jan. 25 sometimes is called "Scotch night" seems to imply that Burns is universally regarded as Scotland's greatest son. This gives him a special place among poets. While Shakespeare takes the highest place in English literature, not even his greatest admirer would think of him as being the historic representative of England's greatness. In the United States Washington or Lincoln, not Lowell, Holmes, Whittier, Longfellow, would call forth the most patriotic fervor. The mystery is not made any clearer by the inescapable fact of history that military genius, courage, passion for liberty, always have characterized the Scottish race. The Scots themselves, being by nature a modest people, don't talk much about the martial and political glories of their race. But these are all in the history books; there's nothing secret about them. James Anthony Froude, the eminent English historian, said: "If we except the Athenians and the Jews, no people so few in number have scored so deep a mark in the world's history as the Scots have done. No people have a greater right to be proud of their blood." A few years ago an English politician, in discussing the Scottish Nationalists' agitation for Home Rule, said he could not understand what it was all about since the Scots already were ruling not only Great Britain but all other parts of the Empire as well. That of course, was a slight exaggeration; the fact remains that since Gladstone's time five Scotsmen have been Prime Ministers of Britain. It is worth noting, too, that when the Second Great War broke out, Canada, Australia, and New Zealand were being led politically by men of Scottish ancestry. King, Menzies, Fraser. Yet, when Scotsmen get together, they sing not of conquering kings, great soldiers, or illustrious statesmen, but of a simple kindly man who made up his verses as he followed the plough across the fields of Ayr. Phi Beta Kappa, the oldest United States college fraternity, was formed in 1776.

FREEDOM FROM FEAR. Removal of fear is the privilege and the duty of insurance. It was the fearful consequences of the Great Fire of London in 1666 that gave birth to insurance. It is fear of financial loss by fire, accident, and other unpredictable and costly events, that is the main spring of the insurance business, initiated and nurtured by private enterprise, and which for more than 280 years has conferred untold benefits on the human race. All lines of Insurance effected. HYNDMAN & CO. LTD. Established 1872. Representing British, Canadian, and American Underwriters, also Lloyd's Corporation of London, England. Offices: CHARLOTTETOWN - SUMMERSIDE - MONTAGUE Agents throughout the Province.

PROFESSIONAL CARDS. A. Walthen Gaudet, LL.B. BARRISTER, SOLICITOR, ETC. Gaudet & Hazard, GILBERT A. GAUDET, B.A., LL.B. BARRISTERS and SOLICITORS. Matheson, Peake & Nicholson, A. W. MATHESON, Q.C. JOHN P. NICHOLSON, LL.B. BARRISTERS, ETC. M. Alban Farmer, Q.C. B.A., LL.B. BARRISTER and SOLICITOR. Byron J. Grant, O.D. O.TOMETRIST. Allison M. Gillis, LL.B. BARRISTER, SOLICITOR, ETC. J. A. Carruthers, R.O. O.TOMETRIST. McDONALD, CURRIE & CO. CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS. H. R. DOANE & COMPANY CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS. RANDOLPH V. MANNING, C.A. ERMA P. MacPHERSON, C.A. KEVIN J. MCKENNA, C.A.