

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.

CHARLOTTETOWN THURSDAY, DEC. 17, 1953

Safe Holiday Driving

The festive season, short hours of daylight and icy streets combine to make the streets and highways highly dangerous over Christmas and the New Year.

The Hon. Mr. Darby, together with Deputy Provincial Secretary, Lt.-Col. P. S. Fleiding and Mr. J. A. Gallant, met representatives of the press yesterday and emphasized the seriousness of the problem.

At the present time the warning is against combining alcoholic celebration of the season with operation of a car.

No one wants to be a spoil sport but it is no fun for the car driver to kill a pedestrian nor for a family to be broken up at Christmas.

Fifty Years Of Flight

It was on December 17, 1903, that the Wright brothers made their epochal flight at Kitty Hawk, North Carolina.

The significant thing is that for all practical purposes man has been flying for only half a century and yet today it is almost impossible to imagine civilization deprived of the power of flight.

The age of steam saw the world converted from an agricultural and trading civilization to one in which industry and trade became dominating factors.

That Canada is far from lagging in all this development was clearly pointed out by the conference in October of leading aeronautical designers.

Trans-Atlantic Telephone

As every Island school child knows, the first submarine telegraph cable in America was laid between Cape Tormentine and Cape Traverse in 1852, fourteen years before the first permanently successful transatlantic telegraph cable was laid.

An overland micro-wave system will carry the trans-Atlantic circuits from Nova Scotia to the United States, where they will be linked with the network of the Bell system.

Long in contemplation, the new cable will make possible as many as thirty-five conversations at the same time between North American and British centres.

The British Postmaster-General, Earl de La Warr, signed the agreement with the U. S. and Canada. In describing the development to the House of Lords he emphasized that the new cable will transform telecommunications between the United Kingdom and the North American continent.

Royal Commissions

Disgusted with the trend of affairs at Washington as exemplified in the White case, the editor of the Utica (N.Y.) Daily Press turns an admiring glance upon the method adopted in Canada and Great Britain in dealing with matters of this kind.

In the case of specific charges of malfeasance or misfeasance against a public official, Parliament is apt to set up a tribunal of inquiry empowered, unlike a Royal commission, to compel the attendance of witnesses and the production of documents.

Canada adopted the British system in its inquiry of 1945-46 into Soviet atomic espionage in the Dominion. Canadian commissions of inquiry are usually composed largely of judges, and witnesses before them are immune from prosecution based on their testimony.

EDITORIAL NOTES

The proposed Royal Commission on the defence of insanity is long overdue. For many years there has been no relation between the scientific understanding of mental disorders and the definitions in the Criminal Code.

Parliament adjourns to reassemble January 11. As a holiday it is generous but as a release from parliamentary duties in which members may take care of their own affairs and their constituencies it is all too short.

The report that two bombers have been used to drop seven tons of bombs on Mau Mau hide-outs recalls a similar action in the Khyber Pass. In that case the warlike tribesmen sent an indignant message to the authorities saying that if the incident were repeated they would not do any more raiding.

That President Eisenhower wants Congress to permit the sharing of "pertinent information" on atomic weapons was a very welcome statement to the council of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization. It is to be hoped that Defence Secretary Wilson's statement will be given effect by the legislators.

The N.A.T.O. standardization of small-arms ammunition is a success to be credited to Canadian efforts. All attempts to agree on a standard personal weapon for soldiers had met with failure but the Canadian effort was then directed at the particular problem of having a common cartridge adopted.

Sir Herbert Beerbohm Tree, English actor-manager, was born this date 1853. His first great hit was as Rev. Robert Spalding in "The Private Secretary" in 1884. He managed the Haymarket Theatre and later was proprietor and manager of His Majesty's Theatre, becoming famous especially for his productions of Shakespeare's plays.

What We'd Like To See Come Out Of It



The Poet's Corner

FROM THE CHURCH PORCH Resort to sermons, but to prayers float the. Praying's the end of preaching. O be drest. Stay not for 't' other pin; why thou hast lost. A joy worth words. Thus hell doth jest. Away thy blessings, and extremely Thy clothes being fast, but thy soul loose about thee...

Old Charlottetown

OLD EPISCOPAL CHURCH From the reports of the Legislative Assembly, Feb. 28, 1835. "Mr. Binns presented a Petition from several pew-holders of the Episcopal Church in Charlottetown, setting forth—that a new Church hath been erected for the performance of public worship according to the rites and ceremonies of the United Church of England and Ireland, and petitioners have every reason to suppose that the same will be ready for the celebration of public worship in the autumn of the present year—that the old building heretofore used is in a ruinous and dilapidated state, and may be dangerous to the public—that it encumbers the principal Square, and cannot much longer be serviceable to petitioners, nor to the members of the Established Church of Scotland, who have likewise erected a Church in Charlottetown; and that petitioners are desirous that a law should be passed authorizing a sale thereof, so soon as the new Church is completed, and a division of the proceeds among the owners of the pews, of whom petitioners form the major part—and also that the site of the said building may, by the said Act, be again vested in His Majesty."

The Age Old Story

And being made perfect, he became the author of eternal salvation unto all that obey him; called of God an high priest after the order of Melchisedec.

LITERARY TRIUMPH

WORTHING, England (GP) —Maida Butler dug deep into family history to provide entertainment for her relatives, and her 50,000 word volume turned out to be an unusually accurate description of life in the 18th and 19th centuries. The manuscript now has been accepted by the British museum.

Notes By The Way

People are smartest at 50, says a judge. Three guesses what his age is.—Hamilton Spectator. "An idle hour is gone forever," muses a newspaper philosopher. Whereas, after a busy hour, you have the fatigue you worked up.—Peterborough Examiner.

We keep looking for signs of change in the Soviet Union—change for the better, that is—but rarely come across them. There are some, however. Since Stalin's death the Malenkov regime seems to have tried to ease up a little on the people, give them a little more freedom, let them express themselves more—and more freely. Whether all artists are taking advantage of this relaxation of the rules we do not know.

One of the most humiliating experiences parents have to endure, and it is not uncommon, is to have a sixth grade son or daughter ask help with the homework. Frequently even an intelligent, well-educated parent will have trouble with a problem. It tends to diminish the parent in the eyes of the youngster. This explains why, in an English village, parents are taking refresher courses so they won't seem stupid to their children. Often there is logic in the inability of a parent to do a child's problem. It may have been many years since a man or woman worked out an equation or parsed a sentence. And it may have been, of course, the man or woman wasn't much good ever at a particular subject.—Windsor Star.

In the Christmas-time days it sounds cruel to say that reindeer bore some people who would just as soon have nothing to do with them. This eccentricity is especially marked among the Eskimos in Canada's Western Arctic, the first beneficiaries of the Federal Government's reindeer policy under which deer were imported from Alaska for distribution in due course to reindeer herders who would be encouraged to start their own ranches on the barren Mr. Lesage, the Resources Minister, has told the Commons that there are now 7,771 reindeer in the Canadian North, a piece of information the House received without riotous excitement. The fact is that reindeer are as remote to the Eskimo as they are to the House of Commons. A man who has lived by the hunt, free to go where the spirit moves him, building his shelter for the night where the storm or laziness come upon him, makes an unenthusiastic nursemaid for reindeer.—Ottawa Journal.

New words are being born almost every day. They are manufactured, particularly by scientists, to describe instruments, processes, drugs and the like, which are new in the world. These have to be accepted without question, particularly as

There have been some complaints recently about gym teachers who put their classes through a rather military style of drill and insist on a uniform dress. Because this is a free country in which nobody likes to be pushed around, and because it is most certainly not a militaristic country, a great many adult Canadians will instinctively side with the students in this argument. But after some reflection they may admit that there is also something to be said for the other side. The object of drill and of everything that goes with it—the well-pressed uniform, the polished boots, the cap worn at the proper angle, the haircut—is not to make a pretty show. It is to teach and maintain discipline, self-respect and group pride, and to develop quick reactions. On this last count, it is not an accident that young men in aircrew training are put through some of the most exacting of all parade-ground drill—it pays off in quickness of response to instructors' orders or to emergencies in the air.—(From an editorial for young people)—Hamilton Spectator.

DRIFTING LOBSTERS Lobsters may drift hundreds of miles as spiderlike lobsterlings before settling on the sea bottom.

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The Passing Scene

By Observer CONCERNING TWO PEACEMAKERS

The awarding of the Nobel prize for peace to Dr. Albert Schweitzer in 1952 and to General George Marshall in 1953 has given rise to mild criticism in some quarters. The criticism, what there is of it, it aimed, apparently, not at either of the recipients but at what one critic has called the "incongruity between the 1952 and the 1953 selections". Presumably, he meant that Dr. Schweitzer and General Marshall have so little in common that it is difficult to see how their ways could meet on a common peace thoroughfare.

At first glance the criticism may seem to have some validity. It would take a lot of searching to find two men whose lives have been directed in more divergent channels.

Dr. Schweitzer in his philosophy and in his way of life is probably the most peaceful man of the 20th century. In fact, I believe he has referred to himself as a Christian pacifist. Now, Christian pacifism has received a series of severe shocks in recent years. Whether or not they have been severe enough to change Dr. Schweitzer's life—long views in any particular is a question that only he could answer but, even if they have been, it still is true that he has more than an ordinary aversion to the idea of war, with or without atomic weapons.

His doctrine of "reverence for life" would not permit him to kill an insect unnecessarily and many times, we are told, he has gone out of his way to save an insect's life. Peace for all created life has been his dominant passion and all the good works he has done have been guided and directed by it. One historian has called him the "most universal mind since the philosopher Goethe" and it would be hard to think of anyone more dedicated to the task of peace-building. That has been his life and there have been no deviations from it.

The case of General Marshall is of course very different. All his active adult life, with the exception of a few years which he spent in the United States Cabinet, he has been a professional soldier and, from all reports, a highly capable one. He has been called "history's greatest military strategist". Certainly no one since George Washington has been more deserving of the historic tribute, "first in war and first in the hearts of his countrymen". Pacifism as a standard for individuals or for nations has never appealed to him.

It should be noted, however, that General Marshall was not awarded the Nobel prize for anything he contributed to the science or practice of War, although that, too,

might emerge eventually as a contribution to the future of mankind. He was honoured, as Dr. Schweitzer was honoured, for his aid in promoting peace, and chiefly for his statesmanship in promoting the world rehabilitation plan which bears his name.

General Marshall was not alone in this great humanitarian experiment. Mr. Truman had a lot to do with it and there were others who played important parts. But it was Secretary of State Marshall, as he was then, who thought up the plan and started it on its world mission of peace. During the period of its operation that plan accumulated some political implications and, like all other human systems and institutions, it developed some obvious flaws and inconsistencies. In its inception, however, it was as humanitarian as anything ever attempted in the world's history.

War-time friends and enemies alike were entitled and indeed begged to come under its healing and renewing powers. The Russians decided to have nothing to do with it and this was a disappointment to General Marshall who was in his plan one way to bring order out of the chaos which war had brought about. Even allowing for the motive of self-interest, which doubtless had its place in the Marshall Plan, it was a magnanimous gesture for which there was no precedent in the story of the nations.

It would be fruitless and foolish to argue about whether Dr. Schweitzer or General Marshall is the more deserving of the Nobel prize for peace. Each in his own way and according to his own genius has set his mark on the face of the earth and stirred the hopes of mankind. There is a Schweitzer Plan which deals with individuals with the needs and infirmities. And there is a Marshall Plan which works on the needs and infirmities of nations and societies. Each is necessary to the other. The cause of peace is served in both.

Hotel Burns HAMILTON, Ont. (CP)—Flames swept through the Old City Hotel here Monday causing damage estimated at more than \$100,000. The occupants escaped without injury. Renovations to the hotel, known for years as the Dog and Gun, had recently been completed at a cost of \$45,000.

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