

THE GUARDIAN

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CIRCULATION "Covers Prince Edward Island like the dew" "The strongest memory is weaker than the weakest ink".

CHARLOTTETOWN, MONDAY, APRIL 6, 1953

Conservation

A forest climax prevails through large areas of the world: that is, the environmental condition of these regions, when not disturbed by human intervention, results in the gradual expansion of the forest into non-forest areas, the forest itself remaining in a state of equilibrium and tending to maintain itself thus as long as exterior causes do not modify the natural conditions of climate, soil and water supply.

This paragraph, and it applies with force to Prince Edward Island where very heavy inroads have been made for pulpwood, deals only with the exploitation of forests for economic purposes, and not with the widespread destruction resulting from the elimination of forests in the interest of the extension of man's agricultural activities, an extension which also has gone too far in this Province.

Moreover, the type of forest exploitation sufficiently intensive to result in the improvement or destruction of the areas involved is particularly in question.

The world consumption of wood is constantly increasing. The production of sawn timber and wood-pulp continues to increase in importance, but the demand for firewood is fortunately decreasing. New industries, however, are appearing which require wood as a raw material, thus dangerously increasing the total demand.

Furnace Shell Game

A few weeks ago Ottawa announced a rebate would be given of the 10 per cent sales tax levied on gas and oil furnaces bought since September, 1951. This was as a result of a tax ruling which held the tax had been improperly collected.

Naturally, purchasers of furnaces have been seeking the rebate. After all, they were the ones who paid the tax. But they have encountered difficulty. According to the Windsor Star, some in the trade now argue there will be no rebate; that the manufacturers have no rebate coming to them from the Government and cannot get it to pass along to the purchasers.

"This has gone on long enough," comments the Star. "It is up to Ottawa to clarify the situation once and for all. Either there is a rebate, or there isn't. If there is, purchasers are entitled to it though there may be no law to compel it being given them. If there isn't, the trade—retailers, wholesalers and manufacturers—is put in an unfair position. It resembles the old-fashioned shell game, with everyone trying to find what shell holds the pea—in this instance, the rebate. This is too important an issue for the Government—or anybody else—to play tricks with purchasers as the innocent victims."

Fiscal Survey Proposed

Perhaps all the Provinces would benefit by an early fiscal survey of the Dominion by a reconstituted economic committee. This is the proposal advanced by Premier Frost of Ontario and strongly supported by the Globe and Mail, which argues the need for a new definition of taxing jurisdictions and responsibility for expenditures as between the three levels of government. Without this reform, it predicts, Ottawa's spending budget will grow fatter and fatter, while the lesser governments are left in the position of adding their additional burdens on the same taxpayers.

The growing bulk of aggregate provincial budgets in Canada is approaching dangerous proportions, says our Toronto contemporary. The major increases in every Province arise from the necessity of providing services for expansion in every field from the production of raw material to the marketing of finished products and the creation of new residential areas. The big problem is to provide these services from

the limited revenue sources available to provincial and municipal governments.

The net effects of the tax rental agreements are to increase Dominion revenues by tapping provincial revenue sources, and to disburse remaining balances in the form of grants to Provinces, which leaves them increasing uncertainty as to their financial status from year to year. The longer this type of revenue shuffling goes on the worse it gets. The expenditures must be made on an increasing scale because they are necessary—at both provincial and municipal levels—to the development of the Dominion. But the Provinces must find the extra revenue from sources not adequately related to the taxable incomes arising from the development. And in the municipalities the entire onus falls on property owners, with many municipal budgets avoiding insolvency only by accepting handouts and by ignoring heavy backlogs of civic services which cannot be financed by all available means, including heavier borrowing.

Municipalities all across Canada are feeling the pinch in this respect. The kind of readjustment which Ontario is seeking may not altogether suit requirements here, but at least there seems no doubt that readjustment is becoming urgently necessary on the municipal level.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Easter Monday.

The Summerside Board of Trade made enquiries as to why the bus service to Bedeque had been discontinued and learned that as the route had not been paying it had been terminated. It is to be hoped that the run will be given another trial and the public encouraged to support it.

In Alberta a man dug carrots from his garden throughout the past winter—even when the temperature was 45 degrees below zero. It was quite simple. He placed a layer of straw over the carrot beds just before freeze-up and the roots stayed fresh and juicy.

Apparently Islanders and tourists will have to put up with only two ferries on the Wood Islands-Caribou route until the new boat is built by the Federal Government. Until that time present facilities will certainly be taxed to capacity, and may well be unable to carry all the traffic offering.

The comment that the Marketing Act was declared invalid by the Supreme Court "which did not have the interests of the farmers at heart" is unfair to our judiciary. Cases must be decided upon the law and not according to the attitude of judges towards the parties.

Traffic violation penalties are definitely a cost to the community as well as to the defaulting driver as was pointed out recently by Chief MacArthur, recently when reviewing violations in Charlottetown for the past month. It is certainly far more desirable to safeguard life and property on the streets than collect fines for risking them.

Statistics are notoriously misleading but census figures indicate that in Prince Edward Island the man is more apt to wear the pants in the family than elsewhere. At least the proportion of automobiles owned, compared with vacuum cleaners, is higher here than in the other Provinces.

India and the United Nations have signed the largest technical assistance agreement yet reached between the world organization and any single country, the UN has announced. The agreement provides for sending 20 experts to help India in a broad field of industrial development. No figures on the financing of the project were mentioned.

Hon. A. W. Matheson appears to have been quite justified in pointing out in the Legislature last week that it was the Legislature as a body, and not the Government, which was responsible for disallowing the request of the City Council for higher valuation on motor cars for taxation purposes. Members of the Government, of course, are also members of the Legislature, but in this case there was no question of Government policy involved.

John Stow, English antiquary and chronicler, died this date 1605. He was a London tailor who had a lifelong passion for antiquarian research and the writing of history. Though honoured for his work, he remained poor, in fact received patents to take gifts from James I. He is best remembered for his "Survey of London". A new quill pen is still placed annually in the hand of his statue.



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.

ONE WORLD OR —?

Sir,—Mrs. Ruhannah Schlenfeld Frank's splendid articles on her journey to Russia are very interesting. Mrs. Frank is a cultured lady and her humane feeling for a people long-suffering is quite understandable. Foreigners are highly privileged if there are indeed any who see the least traveled places in a vast country where the heavens like an umbrella covering grey and empty spread out it seems into an eternity of space in all directions. Spengler called it the drowsy low-lying sky canopy which made the Russian people fatalistic.

The destiny which Stalin had promised was far removed from what Dostoevski had seen in his dreams. The latter's future state would have a moral basis and would be held together by brotherly love. Dostoevski was however more than a dreamer. He knew that it was not the form of government that was to be condemned. What mattered was that any government should violate human and moral rights; that father and son should be robbed of their peaceful homes and their fireside prayers; millions of them to toil and starve and rot in inhumane bondage.

Dostoevski did not live to witness the Soviet betrayal of his ideal. He suffered deeply under the tsars and so understood the magnitude, severity and deadly gravity of Soviet prisons, unequalled in the annals of history. Dostoevski was one of Russia's greatest novelists. His fame was worldwide during the third quarter of the 19th century. In 1866 was published his Crime and Punishment. Dostoevski had studied foreign literature and particularly history and of course had read Grotius' writings.

Grotius was unusually talented. He received his law degree when he was 15 years old. Between 1625 and 1631 was published in Paris his De Jure Belli ac Pacis (On the Law of War and Peace). This was the first definitive text on international law and for a century and a half was the foremost authority consulted. One of its fundamental tenets was that nations and individuals will have to observe the rules of natural law in their relations to other nations and individuals and to one another if peace is to be preserved. But a new order that Grotius' view did not encompass was taking shape in the last years of the 19th century.

After the First World War strong efforts were made to prevent another war. After the Second World War the object was to make aggressive war a crime. Today, control of crime has become a necessity of neighborly relations among nations. There are growing demands for a sovereignty-in-law to deal with international crime. The ideal presupposes moral justice. The World Court and its successor, the International Court of Justice, have moved toward but have not attained the necessary safeguards in international relations.

During the First World War, Mr. Walter Lippmann was United States Assistant Secretary of War. Mr. Lippmann is a Harvard graduate, served on the editorial staff of the New York World from 1921 to 1931, and has written several books. In his The Cold War (1947) and in his column in the New York Herald Tribune he develops a thesis that gets something like this: Today we are our brother's keeper; world unity has made it so; wherever liberty is threatened our liberty is threatened. This threat comes mainly from three sources:

(1) Countries wherein there is a one-party dictatorship and in which any other party is outlawed as a crime against the State.

Nightmares



The Poet's Corner

POTTER'S WHEEL

Held lightly in my hands, this substance seems The least of all imagined things, To be The stuff of which men fashion fragile dreams— How strange, this is the Open Sesame To all that feeds the hunger unfulfilled By bread, the inner urging of man's need For self-expression; something pure-distilled And tangible, the doubting world Of impulses to splendor in his heart. This substance can be anything . . . It may Be everything! And slowly my hands start To fashion beauty from this yielding clay!

—Bonnie Elizabeth Parker.

It does not matter that the great majority of the people do not of their free will collaborate.

(2) Countries carrying out an aggressive policy in suppressing liberties and threatening world peace.

(3) Improper control of chemical and germ warfare, atomic and hydrogen bombs, and other unthought of horrors of warfare.

These threats must be regarded as criminal in their nature and so the responsibility for crime should be placed on individuals. Why should non-free citizens be penalized in any manner for crimes in which they did not freely collaborate?

Since the beginning of the 20th century a New Order has been ushered into world affairs—a World Order the like of which was never known before. It is an order which imposes on international law a task the like of which never occurred in the past. The growth of science, industry and social relations on a world scale has brought mankind into one family of nations depending on the good-will of each of its members. With the atomic and hydrogen bombs and other terrible forces of nature which science will in the future unleash for man's use or destruction; with these terrible realities facing us God alone knows the outcome. Without the moral factors that strengthen the fabric of world plans, One World planning will not avert Armageddon.

I am, Sir, etc., J. P. McCLOSKEY Cornwall, P. E. I.

Old Charlottetown

CANDIDATE'S STIPULATION

From a letter signed Mungo MacFarlane, Five Mile House, to Mr. James Robertson, chairman of a meeting of electors held on the 2nd May, 1942, appearing in the Colonial Herald, May 14 of that year:

"In conformity with my verbal acceptance of the proposition made to me by the meeting of which you were Chairman, I have now to state, that I agree to stand at the ensuing Election as one of the Candidates for the First District of Queen's County—and I hereby take the Pledge, as contained in the Resolutions of that meeting.

"At the same time I must observe, that if the liberal Candidates do not uniformly take the pledge, I am not to be bound thereby; and this I do, not as though I would assume the privilege of altering my conduct, but because I think, if any one of the liberal Candidates is to be received without being pledged, I have an equal right; for I must say, that it did not sound well to hear some in the last House boasting that they had not taken the pledge, and would not take it, though they were as liberal as those who had.

"In regard to myself, I thank my Constituents for the mark of their confidence, in returning me last Election; but were I to consult merely my own feelings, I would not again come forward as a Candidate, knowing that, however resolute I may be in adhering to the principles I profess, I have not troubled the House with my views, and would not have often interposed, had there been less personalities in the debates than there were. As, however, my neighbours call on me, I will go; and if I cannot say much in public, you shall find that I will vote right, which is, perhaps, more than can be said for some good speakers whom you had formerly seen."

"The pledge to which Mr. MacFarlane referred, and which he was asked to take unequivocally, was couched in the following terms: "That if returned a Member of the House of Assembly of this Island, at the ensuing Election, I will use all my influence, and endeavour by every constitutional means in my power to redress the oppressive grievances which operate against Agriculture of this Colony; that I will use my best endeavours to cause the Wilderness Lands of the Island to be disposed of as in the neighbouring British Colonies; and being fully convinced that an additional Assessment thereon will not effect the oft and long prayed for redress, I will oppose the same in Legislature. That I will use my best efforts to cause the

Notes By The Way

According to reliable sources, the Finnish cabinet is preparing a proposal for a new law which would provide free medical care for government officials who long have been dissatisfied with their salaries.—Finland.

Almost invariably Sunday weather gets better during the day, when Spring arrives. It is often too bad for attending morning church service, but by three in the afternoon it has improved enough for golfing and pleasure riding.—Kingston Whig-Standard.

The highways all year round take a heavy toll in life, the deep dangerous waters in the Summer time takes a big toll, too. What has been most appalling, however, ever since cold weather set in last Autumn, has been the loss of life in fires all throughout Canada. The unsavoury question, if it would seem, is what can be done about it? — St. Catharines Standard.

—Writer of a letter to the Telegram calls Canadian football "aerial ping pong". The English game has also had its detractors. Sir Thomas Elyot in the time of Henry VIII declared it "nothing but beastly fury and extreme violence, whereof proceedeth hurle and consequently rancour and mallice remayne with them that be wounded." — Toronto Telegram.

We urge aldermen not to discontinue the City Council broadcasts inaugurated this week by two local radio stations. Not yet. Our reason for wishing the broadcasts to continue is the very one that aldermen give for proposing to stop them. Aldermen who listen to the taped recordings are horrified to learn how dull and repetitious their meetings really are. Aldermen certainly would not wish the voting radio audience to find out what really goes on at City Hall. It might cure some of this time-wasting bumbling if each councillor knew that his verbal contributions to statecraft would be broadcast. To the extent that any improvements could be noted, the radio stations could claim to have done a public service.—Vancouver Sun.

The St. Thomas and St. Catharines editors appear to have indulged in some amateur beekeeping last summer, and with rather amazing results. Their recent and separately announced findings are identical, to wit: "About 80,000 bees must visit at least 3,399,000 flowers in the course of a day to produce a pound of honey." The "about" and "at least" indicate that at some point in the computation the count became hazy and they threw in a bit of guesswork—but it only makes the coincidence all the more remarkable. — T. D. F. in Ottawa Citizen.

Ab, Spring! What if Richard Garnett did say back in 1876—and what if it's still true—that the weather "gets through more business in spring than in any other season; in spring I have counted one hundred and thirty-six different kinds of weather inside of twenty-four hours"? What if Henry Van Dyke noted gloomily that "the first day of spring is one day, and the first spring day is another; the difference between them is sometimes as great as a month"? "Throw Bartlett's Familiar Quotations out the window. Let it rain, let it sleet, let it snow. It's Spring.—Hamilton Spectator.

It is claimed, by those who are supposed to know, that the reason women park cars so poorly is because they are all bound up by tight articles of attire, and have difficulty in turning around. The other day, while walking along Russell street, east, a woman in a car (did not know her) asked us if we would watch and guide her while she parked. She said: "If I get another dent in a fender I'll be afraid to go home. My husband will go completely mad." Should be stated that men often park cars poorly, too, and often blame it on tight attire—just inefficiency. — Smiths Falls Record-News.

If the song sparrow's song is soon lost among the other voices of spring, for a little while it alone lifts the heart, and he who has taken it in and allowed the notes to play through his mind possesses a thing that cannot be seen, handled weighed or measured, and yet has value beyond price. Ornithologists in an effort to give this music more substance, have attempted to write down the notes in a form intended to be more understandable, and they have even recorded this sparrow's song so that it can be played back at will. But none of this has managed to destroy the simple beauty of that small voice or to make it less valuable; it is still fragile and at the same time indestructible. — New York Times.

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