

THE GUARDIAN

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not content with cycles of wage demands which contribute to the high cost of living, will now add a bit more to the high cost of dying.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Chinese Communist forces have been ordered to "free the inhabitants of Tibet from oppression." It is significant that the latest land to be so favored is many miles from the sea and totally lacking in flying fields.

Tibet

At a time when we are hearing much about "the liberation of Tibet" a speaker before the Royal Empire Society in London has thrown some interesting side-lights on that land which desires merely to preserve the liberty it already possesses.

Sir Basil Gould, C.M.G., C.I.E. (Political Officer in the Indian province of Sikkim, and for Bhutan and Tibet, 1935-1945) stressed that Tibet while it has always had its own strong individuality, is also a place in which have been treasured up and developed many of the best influences of ancient India and China throughout the ages.

It has a common frontier with India of almost 2,000 miles. Roads are almost non-existent, as is the national debt. There is instead a national credit which the Tibetan Government lends out to traders. The chief produce is wool, for which the principal market is the United States. The Tibetans are extremely hospitable and at every point scarves of white silk are exchanged with the visitor, the silk in its whiteness indicating the purity of one's intentions.

The people were once formidable warriors, but about thirteen hundred years ago received the holy scriptures of Buddhism and have for well over a thousand years managed to avoid war. There is difference of opinion on many matters, such as marriage, and the Tibetan likes to live his own life and not be controlled. The Dalai Lama is head of church and state, a duality which extends right through the social order. He is also regarded as the personification of the Godhead.

There is another personification of the Godhead, the Tashi Lama, who has, however, no political power, the only government being that of the Dalai Lama. It was a Dalai Lama who discovered and instituted the first Tashi Lama (or Panchen Lama).

The Chinese are pressing the claims of a boy to be recognized as Tashi Lama but he and his party are outside Tibet in Chinese territory and, indeed, many of his followers have long been in Chinese pay and have never even seen the Tashi Lama's hereditary seat near Shigatse.

Dangerous Courtesy

Courtesy is, after all, the expression of intelligence and thoughtfulness as contrasted with boorish clumsiness. It can never be a slavish adherence to that which custom has by changing conditions converted from what would once have been a thoughtful act into one which causes pain.

Examples are not rare but a notable one is the charming custom of a gentleman opening the car door for a lady before himself going around to the driver's seat. It enabled him to see her safely aboard, tucked in with driving rugs against the rigors of a 20 m.p.h. drive in an open horseless carriage.

Today the practical effect of this gesture is to endanger the life of the gallant escort, not to speak of his car door, by entering from the traffic side instead of from the curb. Milady would gladly waive her right to enter first in the interest of keeping her escort in one piece.

Further, the accepted practice, even if it does not result in an accident, will probably be the cause of tortured nerves in other drivers passing at the time and, who knows, it might be another fair lady who is so thoughtlessly disconcerted.

High Cost Of Dying

The Professional Pallbearers Association, passing up amalgamation with the American Federation of Labor's gravediggers and casketmakers, recently voted unanimously to join the A. F. of L. as a separate unit. Object of the Professional Pallbearers Association will be to make all funerals union funerals, with relatives and friends permitted to act only as honorary pallbearers.

Members of the Pallbearers' union must be six feet tall, weigh 180 pounds, and fit into a size 40 suit. Union pallbearing rates vary with the dress. For morning coat and pinstripe trousers, it is \$4. Grey flannel comes slightly cheaper at \$3.50. Ordinary blue suits fetch only \$3.

Thus far, fortunately, this ghoulish business of barring a man's best friend from acting as pallbearer at his funeral merely because that friend does not happen to have a union card has not hit Canada. Union leaders in the United States,

Nova Scotia's apple growers are awaiting with interest the result of a test case which will decide whether the farmer can set up roadside stands away from his farm as an alternative to dealing with the marketing board.

A month of dry weather is reported to have reduced late blight damage to potatoes to about one-third of what it might otherwise have been. Now if markets will just take an up turn the farmer will be happy.

There is no pessimism in the make-up of Mr. F. R. McLaine who has speculated in property in the centre of Charlottetown because he is satisfied it will prove a good investment. He anticipates that this section, of which the Provincial Building is the centre, will develop into one of the busiest areas of the city.

The drop in potato shipments reflects in part, at least, the improved storage facilities on the Island. Farmers are no longer forced to ship into temporarily demoralized markets but are in a relatively strong position to move their potatoes as and when the market seems attractive.

Home and School associations fulfill a most useful purpose in keeping parent and teacher at one in their efforts to educate their children and pupils. On the larger field of educational policy, however, we have other and possibly more effectively democratic methods of administration. County or Provincial associations would lose their immediate interest in particular youngsters and become simply a pressure group.

The British Labour Government have at length shut down on free medical treatment for visitors from abroad. Immigration officers have been told to refuse admission to foreigners coming to Britain merely to get free treatment from the National Health Service. The new policy was announced by Health Minister Aneurin Bevan, who has often faced criticism that the taxpayer foots the bill if people visit Britain to get operations "on the cheap."

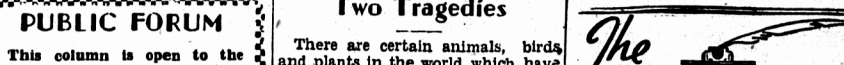
Captain Cook, British navigator, born this date 1728; entered the Navy in 1755, and was a lieutenant on the Endeavour which sailed for the South Pacific in 1768. He explored the coasts of New Zealand and East Australia, of which he took possession in the name of Britain, naming it New South Wales; returned by the Cape of Good Hope; and later sent out as Commander of Resolution which had a marvelous voyage of discovery in which the old idea of a southern continent was destroyed. The use of anti-scorbutic measures for the first time prevented heavy death toll among the crew. Captain Cook was killed at Hawaii on his last voyage in 1776-9.

Nine years ago, on October 27, 1941, the British troopship "Awatea", carrying a Canadian Expeditionary Force of almost 2,000 men under Brig. J. K. Lawson, sailed from Vancouver for Hong Kong. The force was comprised of two battalions of infantry—the 1st Bn. Winnipeg Grenadiers, and the Royal Rifles of Canada—and a brigade headquarters. Officially known as "C" Force, the contingent arrived in Hong Kong on November 16. Three weeks later, on December 8, the Canadians found themselves with the rest of the Hong Kong garrison engaged in a full-scale war. The Canucks distinguished themselves during the bitter two-day battle of Wognelchong Gap but suffered heavy casualties. Practically the whole of the Brigade HQ staff, including Brigadier Lawson, was killed and one company of the Winnipeg Grenadiers suffered 80 per cent casualties. By the 22nd the position was all but hopeless. Members of the garrison, after two weeks continuous battle, were desperately tired, and the supply situation, especially water, had become critical as the chief reservoirs had fallen into Japanese hands. On the 23rd, one day's supply was all that remained, but the defenders continued to cling to their positions through the 23rd and 24th. On Christmas Day, with all hope of warding off disaster gone, the valiant Hong Kong garrison surrendered. Of the Canadians taken prisoner, 137 died through malnutrition and other causes in Jap prisoner of war camps, bringing the total of Canadian dead in defence of Hong Kong to 555.

Fireworks Under Fire



THOUGH OUTLAWING FIREWORKS ALMOST ENTIRELY SEEMS PRETTY DRASTIC, SOMETHING NEEDED TO BE DONE.



THE END OF AN AGE

PUBLIC FORUM

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

EARLIEST BRITISH BORN

Sir.—Your article under "Old Charlottetown" in issue of 26th inst. again brings up the question as to who was the first British citizen born on P. E. Island.

There seems to be no doubt from your article and from other sources that John Webster, Jr. was born at Fort Amherst on 21st or 24th October, 1760.

There is however doubt as to the exact date of birth of Colonel John Frederick Holland, the eldest son of Captain Holland, Surveyor of this Island, who is also claimed by some to be the first British subject born on the Island.

According to article on the Holland family which appeared in your issue of 14th July last Colonel Holland was born on the Island on 27th October, 1764, which would only be about three weeks after the Surveyor landed here. I have seen no reference to the arrival on the Island of the wife of Surveyor Holland with him on the ship Caracacus on 5th October, 1764, to undertake the survey. It is doubtful if he would bring her to the Island in those days, when she was shortly to give birth to a child.

The following is taken from the Register of Burials of St. Paul's Church in this City: "Lieutenant Colonel John Frederick Holland died at Charlottetown December 11th, 1845, and was buried on the 19th. Aged 85 years." Sgd. L. C. Jenkins, Rector.

"The Islander" of 20th December, 1845, referring to death and burial of Colonel Holland says he was 87 years of age and the only surviving member of the Surveyor's family.

In your article of July last it was stated that some claimed he died in Quebec. The entry in Church register and item in "The Islander" disproves that claim. All seem agreed that Colonel Holland died 17th December, 1845. If the Church register is correct he was born in 1760. If "The Islander" is correct he was born in 1758—in either case some years before the Surveyor arrived on the Island. It appears doubtful if Colonel Holland was born on the Island. This letter is written in the hope that it may lead to further information on the subject.

I am, Sir, etc. T. E. M. Charlottetown, 26th Oct. 1950.

Intellectuals In Britain

(Windsor Star) One of the strengths of the Labor Party in Britain is that it is not, in the strict, narrow sense, a Labor party at all. It has achieved power only because it has been able to attract to it voters who are not members of any union.

Economics Minister Hugh Gaitskell has been promoted to the rank of the Chancellor of the Exchequer, succeeding Sir Stafford Cripps. This again emphasizes the important role in the Labor Party played by the intellectuals. Sir Stafford, of course, was one of the most brilliant minds in Britain, educated first in science and then in law. Mr. Gaitskell, a graduate of Oxford University, formerly was a lecturer at that university.

The Labor Party never could have attained office in Britain had it not had the support of a strong group of intellectuals. And this association is not new. The old Fabian Society, launched in the latter part of the 19th century, included such men as George Bernard Shaw, H. G. Wells and Sidney Webb. That society encouraged the unions to go into politics.

One has but to glance at the British Cabinet to see the strong influence the intellectuals exert on the party. The list is replete with university graduates, many of whom once were the "old school tie." Prime Minister Clement Attlee, a product of the upper middle class, like Mr. Gaitskell is an Oxford graduate.

Others from Oxford include Commonwealth Relations Minister P. G. Gordon-Walker; Minister of State K. G. Younger; Chairman of the Board of Trade Harold Wilson; War Minister John Strachey (who, when at Oxford was a Conservative, later becoming a Communist and then a Socialist); Cambridge University is represented by Air Minister Arthur Henderson; Fuel Minister Noel Baker; Secretary of State Chuter Ede; Works Minister R. N. Stokes.

ITALIAN TRACTORS FOR U. K.

The Fiat Motor Company of Italy is now exporting 50 and 55 brake horsepower tractors to the United Kingdom where they have undergone successful tests on typical British farming jobs. A British importing firm has an established dealer agency which will specialize in parts and service for the Italian tractors.

Two Tragedies

There are certain animals, birds and plants in the world which have reached such a low level in number that they are in serious danger of becoming extinct. The loss which the world has sustained through the extinction of certain species was referred to by Dr. Maurice Burton, keeper of the British Museum's Natural History Section, in a speech over the British Broadcasting system. He told his worldwide audience of men and women that these precious things must not vanish if it is at all possible to save them.

One of the tragic facts is that often it is difficult to save a species because it has sunk below the danger line. Burton cited two instances of birds wiped out in recent times, each case illustrating an important principle.

The first of these was the heath hen of North America, so reduced that it occupied only a small territory in the eastern United States, known as Martha's Vineyard. Subscriptions were taken up and people gladly donated money to buy the vineyard and endow it for all time.

It looked as if the heath hen was saved from extinction when suddenly a disaster occurred. There was a plague of goshawks and disease broke out among the prairie hens and finally fire swept Martha's Vineyard. The heath hen was a tight nester and not even fire could induce her to leave her nest. The fire occurred when the heath hens were sitting, all the hens perished on their nests. The heath hen is now extinct and its passing shows how adverse circumstances may wipe out an entire species.

The passenger pigeon's case was referred to. Counting millions of these pigeons existed in 1832, one flock alone being of an estimated 2,000,000,000 birds. Unfortunately for the species, the birds were marketable and salted-down carcasses were sent for sale in the cities. Slaughter was on a prodigious scale and still they seemed to be very numerous. By 1875 they were killed in huge numbers and yet 20 years later they had been so reduced that killing the birds was prohibited.

Finally the story told. The last passenger pigeon was seen alive in 1906 in the United States. Next year the last one of the species was seen in Canada. By 1914 the last one in captivity died in the Cincinnati zoo.

The moral is that numbers alone cannot ensure survival in the face of persecution, said Dr. Burton. Every country has its rarities of animals and plant life. To preserve that heritage the utmost protection is required so that the heritage of wild animals and fowl and wild plant life "is not further reduced by persecution, neglect or carelessness." Dr. Burton made clear.

This study of conservation occupies a great deal of attention today before it is too late. Animals, forest and soil wealth is the subject of intense study today.

Glasgow University produced Secretary of State for Scotland Hector Macdonald, University of Pensions Minister H. A. Macquand; Geneva University, Attorney-General Sir Hartley Shawcross.

Not all, of course, are high-born. But they do not come, with rare exceptions, from the lower economic order. Working men could not afford to send their sons to Oxford or Cambridge.

The trades unions are represented by Foreign Minister Ernest Bevin; Health Minister Aneurin Bevan; Defence Minister Emanuel Shinwell; Food Minister Maurice Webb and others. Lord President of the Council Herbert Morrison and Supply Minister G. R. Strauss came up through the London County Council. Transport Minister A. Barnes represents the co-operative movement. Many of these possess brilliant minds.

But the infusion of the intellectuals from the upper and middle classes gave the Labor Party an appeal to others than union members. It provided the Party with a large supply of brains at the same time. One of the problems of Prime Minister Attlee has been the keeping of a fine balance in his Cabinet, retaining a sufficient number of union members.

The Poet's Corner

WALLS

Free to all souls the hidden beauty calls, The sea thrift dwelling on her spray-swept height, The lofty rose, the low-grown acornite, The gliding river and the stream that brows Down the sharp cliffs with contented breaks and falls— All these are equal in the unequal light— All waters mirror the one Infinite. God made a garden; it was men built walls. But the wide sea from men is wholly free, Freely the great waves rise and storm and break, Nor softer go for any landlord's need, miser's sake And none hath profit of the brown sea-weed. But all things give themselves, yet none may take.

—Eva Gore-Booth.

Old Charlottetown

(And P. E. I.)

THE CHAPEL CLOCK

"We heard on Wednesday evening last the sound of a bell, more silvery in its tone than that of the other bells of the City, and were at a loss to know from whence it proceeded, when, glancing at the tower of the Catholic Chapel, and seeing a dial-plate with golden hands and numbers, we recollected having heard that a clock had been imported from the United States, and placed therein a day or two previously.

"We have been informed that the movements are of a superior finish, both as regards workmanship and material, every pains having been taken to insure the keeping of correct time. We fear, however, that the tone of the bell, though beautifully clear, is hardly sufficiently loud, at least so it has been said, for we regret to say that we cannot altogether trust our own ears in the matter.

"The highest praise is due to those through whose instrumentality the inhabitants of the City have been supplied with the means of ascertaining the true time, by reference to a public standard. There will, henceforth, be no excuse for want of punctuality to either public or private engagements." —Hazard's Gazette, July 5, 1856.

The Age-Old Story

As for man, his days are as grass; as a flower of the field, so he flourisheth. For the wind passeth over it, and it is gone, and the place thereof shall know it no more. The mercy of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting upon them that fear him, and his righteousness unto children's children.

U. K. Luxury Coach Tours North America

(British Information Office) Destined for a 10,000 mile tour of North America, embracing cities as far afield as Montreal and Los Angeles, the streamlined luxury coach has left Britain for shipment to the U.S.A. where it will help Britain to earn dollars. Pressmen travelled as passengers on the journey to sample the comfort and luxury of this mobile British "Embassy."

The coach is one of 12 new Royal Tiger models which Blue Cars (Continental) Ltd., of London, propose to put in service on their continental tours to Switzerland, Germany, France, Italy and Spain. By demonstrating the comfort of these new coaches in North America this company hopes to attract more bookings for tours in Europe from Americans and so increase Britain's dollar earnings.

The coach will tour through Montreal, Toronto, Boston, New York, Washington, Cleveland, Detroit, Chicago, St. Louis, Kansas City, Oklahoma, San Francisco, Los Angeles, San Diego, New Orleans, Cincinnati, and Pittsburgh. Driving it will be Mr. A. Rogers, of London. With more than ten years' experience of Continental driving, Mr. Rogers has also driven for many years on North American roads.

Notes By The Way

Having escaped Friday the Thirteenth with nothing more than a gash on the chin at an early morning (?) shave, and a slight stumble when we went to mark the day off the calendar, our only worry now is who we're going to frighten at Halloween. — Sault Daily Star.

A small boy of our acquaintance, after consuming alarming quantities of ice cream and cake at a birthday party recently, was warned by his hostess' mother to desist. "My dear boy," she said, "you'll be sick tonight. You're too small to eat so much." "Oh, no," said the lad, seriously. "I'm not so small as I look from the outside." — This Week.

October is probably one of the best months for sport enthusiasts. On one Saturday we heard and saw a basketball game, baseball game, a hockey game and a football match — not to mention lacrosse and a few others that we didn't have time to catch. Well, baseball is practically over — but there's still lots to pick from — which leads us to wonder what Lloyd LaPorte and his Inkerman Rockets will come up with this year! — Winchester Press.

A recent visitor to Midland was appalled at the town's high death rate. Apparently over 200 people die in five minutes. At the westerly entrance to the town, he told us, the Ontario Department of Highways sign gives the population as 7,100. But by the time he had driven through town and out by the municipal park at the east end, the highway department's estimate of population was down to 6,900. — Midland Free Press Herald.

A Toronto driver reported a narrow escape the other day. A long freight coasting almost noiselessly down a grade was passing over a level crossing on an important highway near Toronto. The big box cars completely shut off the red light of the wig-wag. The locomotive's head light was far ahead, the lighted caboose had not appeared. The headlights of his own car failed to show up the train because the crossing was slightly higher than the highway leading up to it. Had it not been for the flashing headlights of a car on the other side of the crossing and level with it, this motorist would have been unaware of the freight until it was too late to stop. Warning wig-wags are of little use unless motorists on both sides of the crossing are able to see them. If it is not possible to place wig-wags where they can be seen from both sides, then some sort of a red light or at least a reflector might be placed on the sides of all box cars. — Toronto Financial Post.

The recent annual report of the Uganda game department is full of curious and curiously satisfying information and nearly as rich in human as in animal interest. An American visitor, it seems, was extremely anxious to make a sound recording of hippopotami "shouting defiance at each other" (his words), and was installed one night in a small bay in the Kazungu Channel area, where there were about a hundred hippos. Hopefully he set up his apparatus within a few yards of the nearest hippo, but there was no sound beyond a little snorting. After a long time one hippo bellowed idly, and was answered by another. Then utter quiet reigned again. Finally, the ingenious American decided to play back the recording to the two hippos. This excited a tremendous chorus of bellowing; when it had died down he played this over again too, and started another. The report does not say at what time the party broke up but it all suggests there should be a considerable sale in England among frustrated bird-watchers for Dr. Koch's recordings if they ever came on the market. — Manchester Guardian.

A small story from Italy contains some of the most intriguing information to come from that troubled land for some time. At Santa Severina, in Southern Italy, the first steps are being taken in breaking up big estates and distributing the land among peasants. Within a few days it is expected that 150,000 acres will be shared by 12,000 families, now landless, and largely unemployed. Inside two years 250,000 acres will be shared by 2,640,000 acres. This is the best insurance, not merely against Communism, but against the degrading poverty of South Italy. It should have come earlier, but the land barons were loathe to part with any of their holdings, and the Government was afraid to go fast. However, it has long been agreed that something had to be done. There will still be hardship and poverty in these tough, dry lands. But the people will have some chance. — London Free Press.

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