

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 FRIDAY, DEC. 18, 1953

The V. P. And A. Dilemma

Traditionally the United States Vice-Presidency has been little more than a "stand by" office to ensure uninterrupted national leadership should the President die during his term of office. Under normal conditions the Vice-President presides over the Senate and this more or less perfunctory duty is about the only one he has under the constitution. In late years, however, the office has acquired by gradual and not legally defined stages a sort of unofficial prestige and Mr. Nixon, the present V. P., has just returned from what he calls a "fact-finding trip" to certain Asiatic countries. This in itself is an important departure from custom. To make it even more important Mr. Nixon is reported to be making recommendations to the State Department with respect to government policy in India and Pakistan.

The question seems to be: Should the United States continue to regard India as a potential ally against possible new Communist aggression in that part of the world and, consequently, give her priority in economic and military support, or transfer the first place to Pakistan which, at the moment at any rate, appears more likely to resist the blandishments of the Communist Powers? From the Free World point of view this situation provides a serious dilemma and, whatever steps are taken to resolve it, it will have unpleasant repercussions among the peoples of Asia. This involvement of a hitherto sinecure-like office in a matter which without a doubt will be numbered among the very critical problems of the century is just one more indication of the strangeness and abnormality of our times.

Tidal Power

French engineers are reported to be studying with more than academic interest the great ocean tides which surge against the shores of France. At one point, in the estuary of the Rance river in Brittany, the incoming tide piles up a wall of water 38 feet high.

The suggested plan calls for a 2,400 foot dike, to be built at the mouth of the estuary. The tidal waters, trapped behind this dike, would be released suddenly to fall with tremendous force across a series of turbines. This "Rance project" has already been worked out with scale models and the estimated production is some 700 million kilowatt-hours.

It would, of course, notes an exchange, be an expensive project, costing perhaps \$150 millions, and it will not be undertaken while any cheaper sources of power are available. But it is there; an almost inexhaustible storehouse of energy awaiting the controlling hand of man. And France is badly in need of new power sources. She imports 98 per cent of her crude oil, and the limits of her underground reserves of coal are within sight. She is now looking with an anxious eye to her available sources of hydro-electric power, most of which has already been harnessed. The consumption of electricity in France has doubled in the past seven years.

Ancient Library

It is a useful antidote to modern pride in our civilization to consider the achievements of earlier days. All too many young people grow up with the assumption that nothing of importance was known before their own time. Amongst those contributing to our knowledge of the past are the archaeologists who spend time and effort in piecing together the story of the past.

Recently one of the world's oldest libraries was discovered in Turkey. More than a thousand inscribed clay tablets throwing light on the history of the ancient Assyrian Empire have been unearthed at Sultan Tepe, in southern Turkey, by British and Turkish archaeologists. The tablets were found in a sealed room forming part of a temple on the site of the ancient city of Harran.

Among the few so far translated, reports Unesco Features, have been found part of the Epic of Gilgamesh, a series of stories written on twelve tablets concerning a mythical figure called Gilgamesh, which is one of the oldest literary works in existence. The library also includes writings of a religious character—hymns, prayers, incantations and omens—and cer-

tain vocabularies and lists.

Many of the tablets are crumbling with age, and must be rebaked before translations can be made. Only some 150 tablets have so far been removed to Ankara for restoration and translation. The rest remain sealed in the vaults where they were discovered for the winter months, until archaeologists can continue the work next spring.

This task is only one of many which contribute to our knowledge of earlier inhabitants of the earth. It is not the finding of valuable works of art that is the attraction. Any treasure hunter would go after these but rather the piecing together of the story of man's slow conquest of nature and his learning to live with his fellow man.

Totem Poles

Agitation at Ottawa against the importation of Japanese-made souvenirs of totem poles has revived interest in this curious subject, about which the following facts are quoted from the Ottawa Citizen:

Totem poles were carved from British Columbia's red cedar trees, some of which are eight feet through and 200 feet high. The National Museum displays one cross-section that was a sizable tree when Magna Carta was signed in 1215. Of its four totem poles, the Kwarkshu Pole is 45 feet high. Early missionaries considered these poles idolatrous, and encouraged their destruction. Today many people think the carvings are intended to tell stories. Both impressions are wrong.

The totem pole was raised before an Indian house in pride or commemoration. It signified the rank, wealth, social standing, or achievements of the family. It was carved with crests, much like the medieval coat of arms. The wolf, for example, symbolized cunning, and the grizzly bear, strength.

In addition, conventionalized figures on the pole would call to mind some myth associated with the family, just as the depiction of a wolf, a girl in a red riding hood, and a dormant grandmother would make modern people think of a particular fairy tale. On one pole at the Museum is the Cannibal Giant, who was finally burned in a pit by four Indian youths. His ashes, transformed into mosquitoes and black flies, still take revenge on the human race.

Of the arts that flourished among the Haidas of the Queen Charlottes and their neighbors, totem pole carving is surprisingly modern. It is shown in a sailor's sketch of 1791, but did not become widespread until metal tools and wealth from furs provided the means and the motive for two generations after 1840. Its story has been authoritatively written by Dr. Marius Barbeau, and the poles were a favorite subject of Emily Carr's painting. Today Mungo Martin and his son, who work in Thunderbird Park in Victoria, are among the few remaining Indians who carve in the great tradition.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Birthday of Prince William (of Gloucester), 1941.

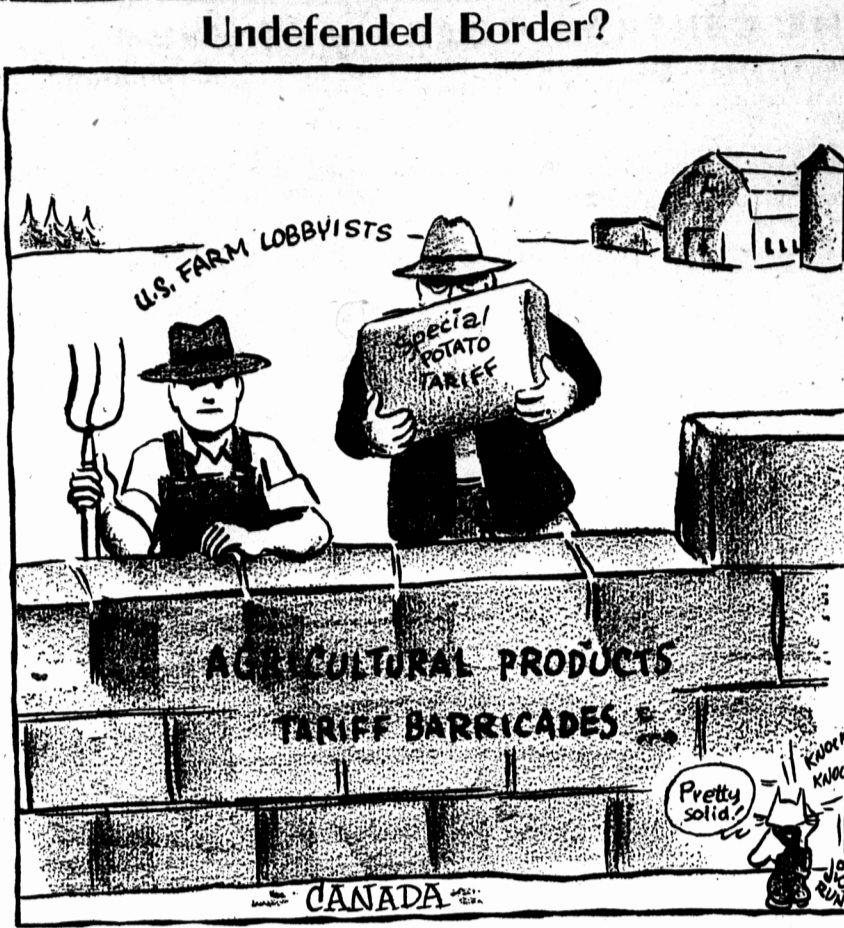
The former secret police head's confession notwithstanding, it may be presumed that Beria's chief fault was the ambition that induced him to become minister of internal affairs and consequently his own boss.

Washington is looking into the matter of weather control, a five-man advisory committee being appointed to investigate rain-making and other measures. Some day we may again see politicians lined up as "wets" or "drys".

Hay will be dehydrated starting early next year in a south western Ontario farming community. A \$25,000 plant, 600 feet by 50 feet, will turn out the product mainly for feeding American race horses but its success will be of interest to farmers everywhere.

Johann Gottfried von Herder, German critic and poet, died this date 1803. At an early age he began to write verses. At university he met Kant and Hamann and later Goethe, with whom he published a journal dedicated to turning German poetry from classical to popular ideals. He did a great deal of work in collecting folk songs and tales as well as on original poetry.

Celebration of the 50th anniversary of the aeroplane included the setting of two new speed records. A California-Washington commercial flight was made in five hours and 54 minutes, compared with the earlier six hours and 17 minutes. A British Canberra jet bomber flew from London to Capetown in 12 hours and 25 minutes breaking the previous record of 21 hours and 31 1/2 minutes.



The Poet's Corner

THE THINGS THAT ARE MORE EXCELLENT

As we wax older on this earth, Till many a toy that charmed us seems Emptied of beauty, stripped of worth And mean as dust and dead as dreams For gauds that perished, shows that passed. Some recompense the Fates have sent: Thrice lovelier shine the things that last; The things that are more excellent... The grace of friendship - mind and heart Linked with their fellow heart and mind; The gains of science, gifts of art; The sense of oneness with our kind; The thirst to know and understand. A large and liberal discontent; These are the goods in life's rich hand. The things that are more excellent. -Sir William Watson.

Chopping Wood

Along in December after the Fall's rush of work is over, chopping wood is a pleasant task. Grey day or bright, there is always something of interest in the woodland. She starts up a rabbit, a partridge rises with startling roar; chickadees come around and chant their optimistic alto songs.

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Indialogue

By Gerald Steele 4th Year S.D.U. Student HOUSES AND TEMPLES The roads leading to some Indian villages have been worn down to a depth of four and five feet. It would be impossible to imagine the great number of peasant-folk who plodded over these paths with their ox-carts, goats and buffalo, through the many centuries since the settlements were first begun. Over them have also travelled various conquerors subduing the countryside and assessing property for the imposition of taxes. Other approaches to villages, if they do not have the venerable coming from age-long use, have a mystery and the colorful charm of a once-fortified wall or the air of accomplishment whether it be because of a near-by iron bridge over an irrigation canal or a "pukka" street overlooking everything else in India there is a great variety in the structure, layout and location of villages because each locality has its peculiar characteristics. Perhaps because of the need for common defence all villages share the characteristic of being very closely packed. Ranging from the hovels of the outcasts around the outside to the more comfortable dwellings of the wealthier in the centre, little or no space is lost between neighbors. House borders on house, making the problem of sanitation more difficult and allowing no room for expansion or improvement nor for children's recreation. With one door opening to the street, the houses are built like long, long roof-covered sections in the form of a square or rectangle with one or two feet square which about twenty feet square which open to the sky. Entering from the street one comes first upon the cattle and other farm animals lined-up side by side along the front wall. Along the side walls usually are found more animals and grain or farm produce in storage. Back as we know them are known in Indian farm communities. The back section has 2 or 3 rooms as living quarters where food is cooked and where women and children sleep. The men-folk are seen around the house very little, are either talking in the neighbours or sleeping in the outer court. During the dry season meals are often eaten in the court in the centre of the house and the family will sleep there on low couches with net-like mattresses. The most unpleasant aspect of this set-up is the presence of the farm animals in the house who add neither to its cleanliness nor to the comfort of the atmosphere usually heavy with smoke in the wet season or dry dust from the parched earth in the dry season. Smaller huts consist merely of a section perhaps twenty by ten feet with a low thatch roof. It is especially uncomfortable in these because there is neither a chimney for the smoke nor a window for ventilation. It was at first strange to see that an extra-nice house has an ugly object hanging over its front door. This is to catch the "evil eye" and thus ward off the curses of the poor who might have ill feelings against the more prosperous. Even in the cities when a new structure is going up, the workmen will hang a stuffed object which is often mistaken for a suicide victim. Many homes also have arched niches where candles or small lamps are placed on certain religious festivals. Otherwise at night a village is completely dark with not a light except for the occasional bonfire. One of the most important spots in the locality is the village well. Here there is a continuous stream of women with pots and jars carried either on their heads or on their hips. Carrying water for the household is of course the woman's job, but she is helped by all ages from grandma down to the youngest toddler. With each

Indialogue

trip some time is spent in exchanging gossip as this is one of the few occasions the women folk have to get together. The amusement of the group, the gentlemen among the visiting students offered help in pulling the rope through the squeaking wooden pulley. Such meddling in women's affairs was nevertheless appreciated as they accepted rather coyly the efforts of a perishing hero. Because these wells are so large and open they are ever a source of contamination. A cholera epidemic for instance, will become widespread in a very short time. No amount of insisting seems to convince rural folk to boil their water, although they have milk as a general custom. Tube wells and pumps are the next best means of disease prevention and are being installed in greater numbers every year through government assistance. Right now only about one per cent of the whole population has a suitable water supply.

It is not uncommon to see many villages with four or five temples and many shrines erected to the various gods and goddesses of the Hindu pantheon. It has been found that practically none of these temples has been built in the last ten years. What this reflects a decline in religious fervor of the people or an extremely slack economy, is difficult to say. Whatever the reason these now standing are generally in constant use for the various religious functions and festivals. Inside, the temples are dark and scented with incense. In addition to the images of perhaps two or three other gods, there is an inner sanctum where the principal god or goddess is enshrined. Ancient craftsmen certainly spared no effort or time in giving full vent to their creative genius or in doing justice to the intricacies of style demanded by tradition, when constructing both the images of their edifices. Connected with each temple there is at least one or a number of priests depending on its size and on the number of worshippers. These are members of the Brahmin caste and receive their office by heredity. In appearance they differ from others in that their well-cared-for bodies are bare to the waist, their heads are shaven except for a small knot at the back, and their foreheads are variously marked with the different-colored powders used in religious functions. In their rituals, besides the offering of incense and scented flowers, the features of the images are well covered with powders of many shades. Then there are the priests in the foreground in the color and sign of their caste to signify their devotion. This same function is carried on daily in the homes as the father leads the family in adoration of the household god. Each family has either an image or picture of a deity to which they supplicate for favors and perform various rituals. Common prayer both morning evening as well as before meals is the established practice in all devout Hindu homes. Once a year on the anniversary of the principal deity of the village huge festivals and processions take place. For each temple there is a large cart on which the image of the deity is drawn by his adherers through the roads of the village. Some of these carts are immense structures of thirty or more feet, delicately carved with images depicting scenes from their religious lore or from the life of the deity. After the carvings the most interesting feature of these festival-carts is their huge wooden wheels in many cases worn from a century of use. At festival time the weather-worn surface of the cart is lost in the colored decorations which make it unbelievably brilliant. Accompanied by an excited and singing multitude and the impromptu tones of

The Age Old Story

And we declare unto you glad tidings, how that the promise which was made unto the fathers, God hath fulfilled the same unto us their children, in that he hath raised up Jesus again as it is also written in the second psalm: Thou art my Son, this day have I begotten thee. NEED CONFIDENCE VANCOUVER, (CP)—Eric Newton, art critic from London, England, said in an interview here "Canadian artists have developed a deplorable state of nerves over fretting about what others think of them." He declared "What I have seen of Canadian art is good."

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Notes By The Way

Smoking a pipe is more than a pastime: it is almost a full-time employment. The pipe man constantly cleans and coddles his pipe, scrapes it and packs it, and lights an endless train of matches to keep it going. —Philadelphia Bulletin

Cooking schools seem most beneficial and are understandably well patronized by housewives of all ages. Perhaps some of the husbands can learn a few interesting cooking hints themselves if they would attend a few of these sessions. After all, if their wives are going to help out the family budget by working too, the least we men could do is to reciprocate by taking turns in getting meals ready. —Brookville Recorder and Times

Canadians have long thought of their country's mineral production chiefly in terms of such leading metals as gold, nickel, copper, lead, zinc and aluminum, and of such a non-metal as asbestos. This view, however, a comparative newcomer to the front ranks of mineral production is taking over the spotlight. When the records are all in for 1953, mining experts calculate it will be found that oil has become our most valuable mineral product. —Edmonton Journal

The question of the exact function of television is one which is present exercising the minds of those who in more countries than one are responsible for television policies. Should the new medium as a means of approach to an enormous public, consider itself as a method of raising the standard of popular culture? Or should it content itself with the offering of what may broadly be described as "pure entertainment"? The wide popular impact enjoyed by such mass media as radio, the films and now television makes it imperative that they should accept the moral responsibility of educating as well as entertaining. The radio and the film industry have already made considerable contributions to education, both with children and adults. It remains for the youthful television industry to adapt itself to the same ends. —Halifax Chronicle Herald

There are two ways for man to cope with the problems that beset him. He can shift them to other shoulders—those of an association, an institution, the state. He then returns to him in the form of orders and police measures. Or he can accept them and deal with the local music-makers, the enshrined god is drawn by eager devotees who consider it the greatest honor to offer even a small help as they believe it will avail them of eventual salvation. —Summerside Journal, Aug. 6, 1938

Old Charlottetown

(And P. E. I.) RAILWAY COURTESY "The afternoon express for Georgetown and Souris leaves Charlottetown ten minutes before the train for Summerside, and there is always the usual amount of uncertainty in the mind of the woman with two children and eleven parcels as to which is her train. Last Saturday evening it was raining, and after the Eastern express had left, while we stood in conversation with Mr. Unsworth alongside the Summerside train, a party of women, children and bundles, all wet and generally very mused up, approached the Superintendent, begging the fact that they thought it was the last train that went east, and consequently they had got left. The good-natured Superintendent took in the situation immediately and, without the intervention of any red tape, told them to 'get aboard there and when you arrive at the Junction you will find your train waiting for you.' It is easier for me," he remarked to us, "to detain the eastern train a few minutes, than for these poor women to remain in town over Sunday." And when we got to the Junction, there was the eastern train waiting. —Summerside Journal, Aug. 6, 1938

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