

THE GUARDIAN

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CIRCULATION "Covers Prince Edward Island like the dew"

"The strongest memory is weaker than the weakest ink"

CHARLOTTETOWN, SATURDAY, JAN. 10, 1953

Agricultural Business

The business of farming was the concern of the annual meeting of the P. E. I. Federation of Agriculture last night and the President's report for the financial year must have been a highly gratifying one.

The guest speaker, herself an Islander, but representing the Nova Scotian and national organizations, proposed that a strong Maritime and Newfoundland federation be set up to further production, marketing and distribution schemes.

It is to be regretted that for financial reasons the Research Division had to be closed. Under the directorship of Mr. L. P. McIsaac it operated from October, 1951 until July 1, 1952 and made a number of valuable studies during that time.

A number of the resolutions dealt with farm problems such as those on the limestone assistance policy and livestock breeding, but more were concerned with the market in which the farmer must dispose of his products: the stimulation of trade with the United Kingdom, opposition to substitutes for dairy products, support for the Canadian Wheat Board and elimination of the grain exchange and putting agriculture in its proper place in the defence picture.

The organized farmers got away from immediate dollars and cents, however, and gave a thought to the future of the land and the nation in the matter of a national programme of soil conservation. Remembering the costly and ineffective efforts of the United States they urged that any such programme in this country be administered by the Department of Agriculture rather than by the Department of Natural Resources.

Among The Rabelaisians

The late Mr. Mackenzie King played many parts in his time, as his latest biographer, Bruce Hutchison, has noted entertainingly. But even the indefatigable Mr. Hutchison failed to record that Mr. King was a member of the Companions of Rabelais, a non-political society dedicated to the promotion of world-wide laughter.

The jovial 16th-century monk who created the fantastical characters of Gargantua and Pantagruel was the unwitting patron of this unique society, which sprang up after the Second World War, its organizers being two Americans, Girard and Kathleen Hale of Santa Barbara. The Hales were living in the French village of Maille, near Tours, when they heard that the nearby farmhouse where Rabelais was born in 1490 was falling into disrepair.

The members of the Provincial Fish and Game Association would be the last to deprive young people of the opportunity of becoming familiar with firearms. They recognize, at the same time, that the .22 rifle is a dangerous weapon and that safety precautions must be understood and observed. It was suggested, although not formally included in their resolution, that parents be made responsible for the way in which minors use such weapons.

Penny Post was introduced in Britain this date 1840 and continued until 1918. Previously rates had depended upon the distance as well as weight and the exorbitant charges kept use of the mails to a minimum. Rowland Hill wrote a pamphlet advocating reform and with the aid of James Chalmers, who submitted specimen stamps, he persuaded the British Government to pass the necessary legislation. In 1854 Henry Archer's perforating machine was adopted and stamps came into wide use.

ness of his age; he was a great humanist, and one of his chief aims was to emphasize the brutality and futility of war and the blessings of peace, amity and goodwill. Everywhere he laid stress on the excellence of "Pantragrulism," which the reader soon discovers to be humour in its broadest sense. It is significant that his latest followers, listed as prominent Companions, include none from behind the Iron Curtain. Laughter of the Rabelaisian sort is not a Communist virtue or failing; but one wonders what would be the effect on world affairs if Stalin and his satellites could be converted to the cult, and enrolled as hilarious members. Mr. Churchill would fit in admirably, and probably General Eisenhower as well.

The late Mr. King's place in the merry ensemble is rather surprising. A Rabelaisian jest would be the last thing one would expect from that sedate statesman, but perhaps he felt the temptation of making one during many a stuffy session of Parliament. At any rate his hitherto unknown connection with this league of laughter-lovers has now been revealed. It throws a glimmer of light from a quite unexpected angle upon his inner thoughts and feelings.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Tomorrow, first Sunday after Epiphany.

If any evidence is needed of the high morale of the Royal Canadian Navy it is provided in the report of H. M. C. S. Iroquois' action. After a direct hit forward which killed an officer and two men the gun was back in action within 15 seconds.

Some American customs look peculiar from this side of the border. For instance, the election was over a month when Congress was called upon to reduce individual income tax by 11 per cent. In Canadian politics that would be rank heresy.

Commonwealth countries need capital to carry out the development plans made at the Commonwealth Conference. Eyes are turned, not unnaturally, to this country and the next generation may well see Canada playing the role so long acted by Britain and in more recent years by the United States.

The fly fisherman will be absolutely green with envy at the scientific aid being given to his commercial brethren. Research is expected to let them know where and when to expect bountiful catches while the disciple of Izaak Walton continues to depend upon traditional lore and fisherman's luck.

We learn from news flashes from Britain that a 22-year-old Canadian, Private Orville Thompson of Durham, Ont., 1st R. C. R., was the 10,000th Commonwealth casualty to be evacuated from Korea. He was flown from an airport near Seoul in a R. A. A. F. plane to Iwakuni, Japan, on Christmas Eve.

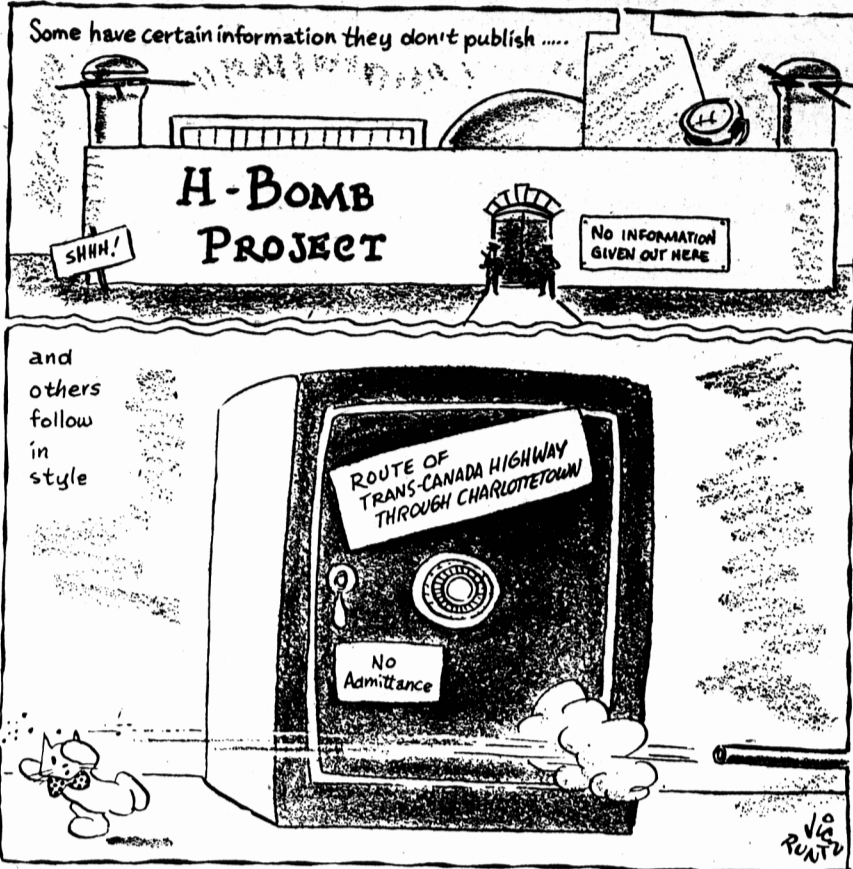
New Brunswick forest operators claim that no Canadian firm could do the job of spraying a million acres of spruce against the budworm and that it was necessary to give the contract to an American firm. Canadian industry frequently finds such a step is unavoidable but Canadian companies should at least have been given the opportunity of tendering for the job.

The P. E. I. Art Society is to be commended on having brought to Charlottetown the Royal Canadian Academy diploma paintings. They were shown to less than best advantage, however, because of the inadequacy of lighting in the Harris Memorial Gallery and it is to be hoped that steps will be taken to keep the Gallery up-to-date and in good condition.

The removal of these low buildings belonging to Mr. Artemas Simms, and the substitution of a line of shops in their place, has added much to the beauty and uniformity of Queen Street. Several other handsome houses have been erected in various parts of the town that built by Mr. White in Pownall Street, opposite the Jail, and that by Mr. Dawson in Upper Great George Street, the brick house by Mr. Foster in Kent Street, and a variety of private dwellings, all good of their kind and in good style. We wait anxiously to see what the Corporation is about to do with respect to the streets and sidewalks, as well as with reference to the sewers; but we do not press, they are matters of moment, and we doubt not will be attended to in due time."

Hazard's Gazette, Jan. 30, 1856.

Hush - Hush Age



The Poet's Corner

THE FIRST SNOW-FALL

The snow had begun in the gloaming And busily all the night Had been heaping field and highway With a silence deep and white. Every pine and fir and hemlock Wore ermine too dear for an earl, And the poorest twig on the elm-tree Was ridged inch deep with pearl. From sheds new-roofed with Cararra Came chaunticleer's muffled crow. The stiff tails softened to swan's down, And still fluttered down the snow. I stood and watched by the window The noiseless work of the sky, And the sudden flurries of snow-birds, Like brown leaves whirling by. —James Russell Lowell.

Old Charlottetown (And P. E. I.)

SUBSTANTIAL BUILDINGS

"We are in hopes that the building of such substantial edifices as those of Brennan, Duncan and Heard will go a great way to remove the unfounded prejudice that exists in the minds of some against brick and stone buildings. The first has long been an ornament and credit to the city, and its utility as a "fire-stopper" has been unequivocally demonstrated. The second and third are erections of the preceding year, both, we are glad to say, being three-storey houses; it is full time to leave off building of a lesser height, at least in the more densely populated part of the city. "Duncan's consists of two large shops, with warehouses above. The shop is 22 feet in depth, by 27 in breadth, with coved ceiling, and extremely well finished. A large pier glass at the inner extremity serves to add apparent length to the apartment. The windows are of plate glass, each pane 10 ft. by 3, and present a splendid appearance by night as well as day. The corner shop is alone occupied; shutters of Island oak enclose the windows of the other. "Heard's is opposite to Queen Square, next above Messrs. D. & G. Davies's store, whose plate glass adds a brilliancy to that part of the town. We think it a pity that Heard did not range with that of Davies; the angle offends the eye, and uniformity is becoming in a street. The shop itself presents a remarkably light and airy appearance, and is in every way suited to the business carried on. The windows and doors are of plate glass, similar to those of Duncan's, and together with the broad mahogany counters give an air of respectability, and impress the spectator with the conviction that where such establishments can be maintained, there must be a corresponding degree of wealth in the community. "The removal of these low buildings belonging to Mr. Artemas Simms, and the substitution of a line of shops in their place, has added much to the beauty and uniformity of Queen Street. Several other handsome houses have been erected in various parts of the town that built by Mr. White in Pownall Street, opposite the Jail, and that by Mr. Dawson in Upper Great George Street, the brick house by Mr. Foster in Kent Street, and a variety of private dwellings, all good of their kind and in good style. We wait anxiously to see what the Corporation is about to do with respect to the streets and sidewalks, as well as with reference to the sewers; but we do not press, they are matters of moment, and we doubt not will be attended to in due time."

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Notes By The Way

Government economists pre-thought at first was a bottle-necked labor from the farms to the cities in 1953. In the short run at least, increased immigration seems the best answer to the problem. —Ottawa Citizen.

"An ant has more intelligence than a whale," says a biologist. But a whale has better manners—he doesn't attend picnics to which he is not invited. —Kingston Whig-Standard.

The city of Woodstock, in Western Ontario, up to last Friday had gone 443 days without a traffic fatality on its streets, and every day the record gets better. There's some luck in this, of course, but there must be other explanations: a commendable sense of responsibility among the city's drivers, plus intelligent and effective police regulation. —Ottawa Journal.

Some way must be found of getting outstanding Canadians into the Senate regardless of their politics. Moreover the Government must make greater use of the Senate by arranging for introduction of more legislation in that Chamber. It is silly to have the Senate twiddling its thumbs waiting for MPs to get through their long-winded orations in the Throne Speech debate. —Winnipeg Tribune.

Sir Gerald Kelly, the new president of the Royal Academy, tells an interesting story. Once he was painting by a roadside. A little girl came by and looked on. "Do you ever paint?" asked Sir Gerald. "Oh, no," she replied. "We had to learn that in school." When the little girl had gone on her way, Sir Gerald pondered her reply. Why is it that the things learned in school become the things that are later avoided? —Montreal Gazette.

The manager of a western firm asserts that he generally abstains from smoking, but he does admit to an occasional nitel cigar. That this practice is getting to be more than occasional (he says) was brought home to him recently when, as he returned from lunch with smoke trailing from his cigar, one of his fellow-employees, a package hauler in the shipping department, exclaimed in genuine consternation, "Look out, sir! Your chewing tobacco's caught fire." —The Printed Word.

Truth, indeed, is sometimes stranger than fiction. Witness the following report in the London Times of a few days ago: "A fourteen-foot whale was caught at Pevensey Bay, Sussex, yesterday, by Mr. V. Gell, a fisherman. He threw a boat's anchor from the beach at the whale, which he

And, behold, there cometh one of the rulers of the synagogue, Jairus by name; and when he saw him, he fell at his feet, and besought him greatly, saying, My little daughter lieth at the point of death. I pray thee, come and lay thy hands on her, that she may be healed, and she shall live. . . . And when he was come in, he saith unto them, Why make ye this ado, and weep? The damsel is not dead, but sleepeth. And they laughed him to scorn. But when he had put them all out, he taketh the father and the mother of the damsel, and them that were with him, and entereth in where the damsel was lying. And he took the damsel by the hand, and said unto her, Talitha cumi; which is, being interpreted, Damsel, I say unto thee, arise. And straightway the damsel arose, and walked; for she was of the age of twelve years. And they were astonished with a great astonishment.

The Age-Old Story

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The Passing Scene

By Observer

CONCERNING A DEBATE

A young man whom I have known since his high-chair days has been selected by the public speaking coach of his school to take the negative side in a debate on the question: "Has Science done more for the world than faith?" He wonders if I would mind giving him a few suggestions, or "pointers", as he calls them. This is substantially what I have written in reply:

Were I in your place I should be glad that the negative side of the debate fell to my lot. Not only would it be a more popular side, in fact it would not surprise me if the crowd that will fill your school auditorium should turn out to be a little biased the other way. That is the way of modern man generally as he looks with a so-called "practical" eye on his world.

At the same time I feel you have the better part of the argument provided (1) that you do not "rush in where angels fear to tread", a mistake often made by debaters (and not only high school ones), and (2) that you do not at the outset attempt a rhetorical blast against the claims of Science. Having avoided these two pitfalls you should begin, I suggest, by frankly and sincerely acknowledging the high place that Science has come to occupy in the life of the world, keeping in mind meanwhile that your final answer to the question being debated must be "no", not "yes".

No thinking person will say that Science is an evil thing. Its sole function is to search for truth, and truth is good from whatever quarter it may come. He who searches for it is to be honored as a benefactor of the human race. The revelations which Science has made in many fields have sometimes been put to unworthy uses but that does not affect the revelations themselves one iota. Everything that scientists have discovered in their long and arduous toil, whether in medicine, astronomy, physics, engineering, or anything else, has brought actual or potential good to every individual, every family, every nation, on the face of the earth.

This evening I looked up to the stars appearing one by one in the sky and I thought of the vast wonders that the science of astronomy has revealed and no doubt there are greater things to come. I turned on the radio and again I thought of mysteries which Science has turned into aids for man's knowledge and pleasure. A lot of very foolish things are broadcast over the radio but it would be absurd to blame Science or scientists for them.

Or think, if you like, of the scientists' latest triumph, the so-called "splitting" of the atom. We mean for Science, please God, what it can mean, and weas God will mean some day, for the world's joy is beyond the imagination of any person living. Here again Science has discovered certain facts hitherto hidden in the

secret places of the Universe. How these facts will be used, for good or ill, for life or death, is but the responsibility not of Science but of the moral impulses of people like ourselves. Mention any good thing that comes to your mind. At some time or other it has been used for evil purposes. . . . How then can you argue that Science has not done more for the world than Faith? Let me remind you of a simple historical fact. It is this. To fix the time when the study of Science as a practical force in the world began its work is a comparatively easy thing to do. It goes back a long way, to be sure, but it can be fairly accurately placed in history. Faith, on the other hand, is as old as the everlasting hills. No historical research can determine when it first began to inspire and strengthen the minds and souls of men. Untold generations of mankind lived and died in faith long before the lamps of Science were lighted. It was a primitive faith, of course. In many respects it was not so intelligent nor so strong as the best faith that is avowed in the world today, but it was intelligent enough and strong enough to give men protection against forces which they could not meet in any other way. Faith in the good and simple things of life; in the ultimate triumph of right; in natural beauty above all; faith in God. Conceivably there could be individuals whose lives would be virtually untouched by Science. We cannot imagine any life untouched by Faith of one kind or another. For Faith seems to be born with every living soul that comes into the world. . . . You must consider, too, the fact that Science itself in every period of its development has been aided by Faith. Indeed, it might not be far wrong to say that without Faith there would be no Science as we understand the term. "Think of the struggles and sometimes weary task of the great pioneers in scientific research and you will see that it was Faith that kept them in the preserving way. There are many men today—some of them distinguished, others unknown—who are trying desperately to find the causes of the few diseases that still manage to defy the science of medicine. Their work is tedious and involves much drudgery. Success in one direction is nullified by failure in a thousand other directions. It is not hope of monetary reward that keeps them going, for the big prizes come only to the few. Nothing but Faith in their task and in eventual victory is sufficient to keep the midnight oil burning in their laboratories. Generations yet unborn will praise them for persevering in spite of failure and hope deferred. Finally, let me suggest that when human beings find themselves up against fears that threaten to overwhelm their spirits they do not cry out for Science. Instinctively, they cry out for Faith.

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