

# The Guardian

Covers Prince Edward Island like the Dew  
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FRIDAY, MAY 18, 1956

## Sense & Fluoridation

An esteemed correspondent writes in today's issue, rebuking us for holding as of small importance the views of the "average layman" on the subject of water fluoridation, and implying that the issue should be dealt with by popular vote, on a basis of "common sense" rather than on expert advice of our doctors and dentists. Speaking as laymen, we think that such a course would be a betrayal of the public interest, and that on issues of this kind it is the duty of those in authority to be guided by the most expert advice they can obtain.

Is it "common sense" or prejudice, for example, to fulminate against "poisoning, be it ever so little", of our civic water supply? Since 1937 our water has been chlorinated, much to its advantage from a health standpoint. Chlorine is just as deadly a poison as fluoride if taken in quantity; and while the proportion varies according to the season and the resulting washoff from the land, the dosage ordinarily is at least 10 parts to a million—or ten times the amount of "poison" used in fluoridation.

We do not know how many people died of typhoid fever here due to unchlorinated water in years gone by, but we know that epidemics of this disease have been practically eliminated through the wise action of our civic authorities of two decades ago. That, we think, was using "common sense" based on sound medical advice. No drinking water is chemically pure and no community can safely assume that its water is free of contamination. Had the chlorination question been put in 1937 to a popular vote, it is likely that we would still be using contaminated water and suffering the evil consequences.

The advantage of fluoridation in preventing tooth decay in children has been proven as convincingly as the advantage of chlorine in preventing fever epidemics. That is medical testimony and we believe it. The nightmare of its "poisonous" effect, in the right proportion, is disproved by the evidence that it would take 10,000 glasses at one sitting to poison an individual. The latest authoritative statement on the subject was given a few days ago before a Parliamentary committee at Ottawa by Dr. Wesley J. Dunn, editor of the Journal of the Canadian Dental Association. "We can state in very emphatic terms," said Dr. Dunn, "that with the most exhaustive and extensive research and findings available, not a single deleterious effect has ever been demonstrated medically, and further that this procedure has received the unqualified endorsement of all the major health organizations on this continent." These organizations include our own Provincial Health Department, our Federal Department of Health and our local and national dental and medical associations. We have no reason to doubt the validity of all this testimony, or the qualifications of those giving it. Why should we? Are they rogues and liars? Have they all been bribed by the aluminum interests for the purpose of promoting the sale of that industry's waste product at the expense of the health and lives of our citizens? That is the kind of propaganda that is being used against them. And we think it is the grossest insult to "common sense" that has ever been spread across this country.

## A Democratic Strength

Only about a year after the consolidation of the two big American trade unions into one united organization, its top officials, President Meany and Vice President Reuther, are reported to be at loggerheads over—of all things!—India's political status. It seems that in a speech last fall Mr. Meany referred to Prime Minister Nehru as "an aide and ally of Communist nations in fact and in effect, if not in diplomatic verbiage". Mr. Reuther, who recently returned from a trip to India, thinks that Mr.

Meany's views are all wrong and did not hesitate to say so on a recording for the Voice of America which sends messages to countries behind the Iron Curtain. His experiences while in India, he said, did not indicate that India is sympathetic to Communism, or words to that effect. This displeased Mr. Meany very much, and the fight was on, with partisans of both sides taking part and, of course, as is the custom in such quarrels, injecting extraneous arguments into the controversy.

Judging from reports, the thing that nettled the Meany side more than anything else was the broad-casting of Mr. Reuther's opposing views to Communist countries and India. It was felt that this would tend to show disunity in the ranks of organized labour.

As to the respective views of the two leaders, it isn't likely that either will have much effect on the broad area of international affairs. But what, surely, is of great importance is that differences of opinions in organized labour, far from being suppressed in news that goes around the world, should be given all the publicity possible.

## Goodwill Ambassador

Former President Harry S. Truman has left for a seven weeks tour of Europe during the course of which he will have "dinner with Prime Minister Eden, lunch with Sir Winston Churchill, and tea with Queen Elizabeth". It goes without saying that all three will be happy to see him, for he is a man of great personal charm. Some say he is the happiest President the United States ever had.

When Mr. Truman let it be known that he was going to Europe to receive an honorary degree from Oxford University, the suggestion was made to the United States Government that he be appointed a "goodwill ambassador". The suggestion was not acted upon by the President, perhaps because he felt it would be an unnecessary formality. Mr. Truman will be a goodwill ambassador, anyway, and formal letters from the White House would not have made much difference. European statesmen in general and Prime Minister Eden and Sir Winston Churchill in particular remember well the great part he played in the immediate post-war era, a time which in a sense was more critical even than the war period itself, since the problems it brought were less well defined and, therefore, more difficult to bring under control.

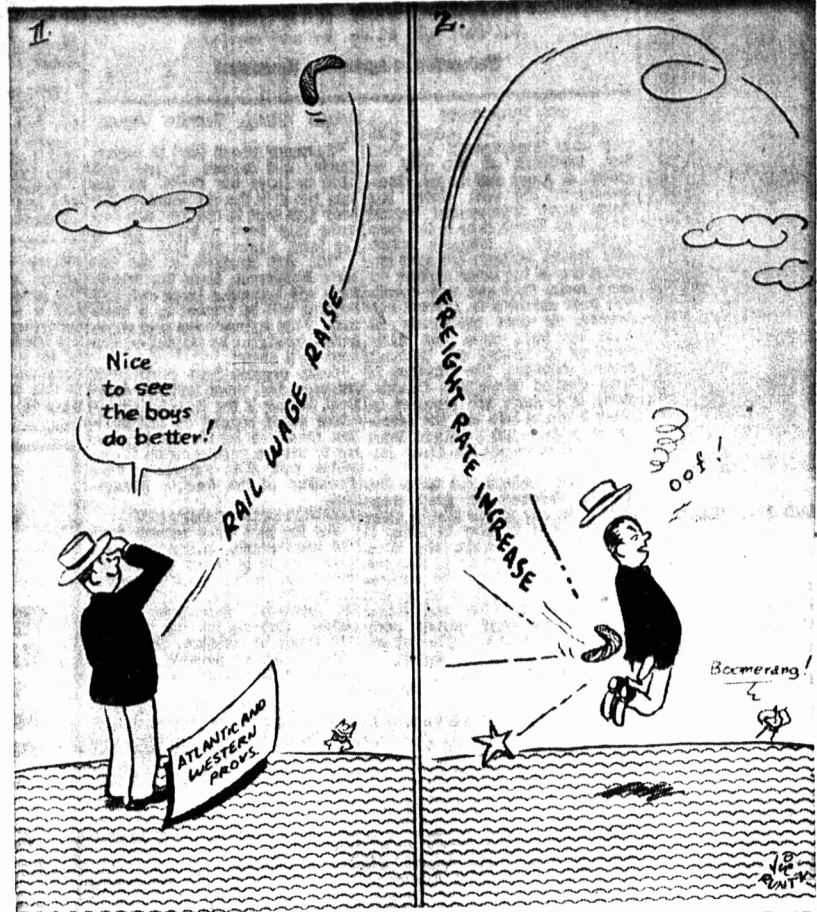
It is a little too soon for Mr. Truman's place in history to be determined. But, bit by bit, the impact of his personality and political gifts on the issues of his generation is being seen in clearer perspective; and already some historians of note are said to be ready to place him among those who served in exalted places of responsibility with more than ordinary distinction. Meanwhile, he keeps the good cheer and friendly manner which even his political adversaries have not been able to gainsay or resist. And as he journeys on European soil—a goodwill ambassador in fact, if not in official appointment, from the new world to the old—he will find himself among friends.

## EDITORIAL NOTES

An expert in the business says that "hanging your own wall paper is not at all difficult". That's true enough, provided you have nothing else to do and are not particular about how it hangs.

It's a pity in a way that negotiations on Singapore's request for independence within the Commonwealth have broken down. If, as is expected, the breakdown prefaces internal violence and terror, such as is taking place on Cyprus, only the Chinese Communists will gain anything. They are just waiting to move in for large scale subversive activities.

Again the Passamaquoddy Tides Project has reached the stage where President Eisenhower has asked Congress for a million dollars to start a thorough survey of the possibilities. The action, however, does not necessarily mean that the survey will actually be undertaken. On two or three previous occasions the matter has come to the point of Presidential sanction only to be blocked by the reluctance of Congress to provide the money.



TOO BAD HE HAS TO CATCH IT IN THE END

## PUBLIC FORUM

This column is open to the discussion of current events of interest. The Guardian does not necessarily endorse the opinions of correspondents.

**THE ACID TEST**  
Sir, I note the news story intimating that Moscow proposes "to cut its armed forces by 1,200,000 within a year"; also that neither Washington nor Ottawa authorities are unduly impressed by the announcement. I certainly agree with the U.S. view that there would be more significance to the Soviet announcement if the Kremlin also agreed to an effective inspection system to police disarmament.

**TWO SOLID REGIONS**  
Geographically the Arab world includes more than a dozen states sharing a common language, culture and blood inheritance. These countries reach across North Africa from the Atlantic Ocean to the Red Sea, and cover the Arabian peninsula from Oman and Aden in the south to Syria and Iraq in the north. Within the area live some 60 to 70 million people.

**ARAB NATIONALISM REBORN**  
Arab nationalism was reborn after Allied victory in World War I. Then "revolt in the desert" against the British Crown Colony of Singapore, the hot and humid seaport presents a British flag. Men in sun-drenched white play cricket on a waterfront green, near pillared government buildings and Victorian business houses. However, the colony has been moving rapidly toward self-rule in recent years. Now it seeks full independence.

**AGAINST FLUORIDATION**  
Sir, Considering the sum total of evidence so far produced, both pro and con fluoridation, I regret to see The Guardian so absolutely in favor of it. I regret, for instance, to see it quite recently, publish a cartoon that unjustly insinuated that those opposed to fluoridation are callously indifferent to the welfare of our children. I regret, most of all to see The Guardian state positively that it will not print any more articles on the question of fluoridation.

**BEHIND HIS STALD FACADE**  
The city pulses with Oriental life. Although geographically a part of the Malay Peninsula, to which the island is attached by a causeway, the city has always been overwhelmingly Chinese. Among some 230,000 residents, four out of five trace their ancestry to China.

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## Arab-Moslem Worlds

The "Arab world," a term often in the news as tensions grip the Near East, is linked with but is by no means synonymous with another familiar phrase, the "Moslem world."

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## Medically Speaking

**TAKE PROPER CARE WHEN USING CLEANING FLUIDS**  
WITH Spring cleaning on the minds of so many families these days, I think a word of caution about certain cleaning fluids is in order.

Whether you are cleaning upholstered furniture, auto upholstery or engines, clothing or anything else, you've got to be especially careful if the cleaner contains carbon tetrachloride. And many of them do.

Carbon tetrachloride is a clear fluid used as a solvent, a grease remover, a dry cleaning solution and to extinguish fires. Chemically it is related to chloroform.

**PUNGENT FUMES**  
It won't burn. And for this reason it is used in many non-flammable cleaning fluids. However, both the liquid and the pungent fumes can be poisonous.

**CAN BE FATAL**  
If you've been poisoned previously by either the liquid or the fumes, your chances of being affected again are increased. While this poison can be fatal or produce a serious illness, you may escape with a simple headache or a feeling of discomfort.

**CHRONIC DRINKER**  
If you have drunk alcohol within 24 hours prior to your cleaning chore don't use carbon tetrachloride. And don't use it if you are a chronic drinker of alcoholic beverages.

**OUR YESTERDAYS**  
From The Guardian Files  
TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO (May 18, 1931)

**TEN YEARS AGO**  
(May 18, 1946)  
Reports from the various labor centres in the Province indicate that the continued rough weather has prevented any large catches being landed. Many fishermen have only been able to reach their gear every three or four days.

**TO ALL FARMERS**  
Our hats are off to Fred F. Kitson, your OLIVER Dealer in his move to new and larger quarters at Hunter River. Here Fred can Sell and Service Oliver Tractors, Oliver Farm Machinery and Gehl Harvesting Equipment to your better satisfaction.

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## NOTES BY THE WAY

An old-timer is one who remembers when people gathered to give thanks for a bounteous harvest, rather than to decide whom to blame it on.—Stratford Beacon Herald

This is the only time in the university year when a student can say to a professor: "You mark my words" and the professor has to do just that.—Kingston Whig-Standard

A coat-of-arms for the Income Tax Department would consist of an outstretched hand reaching for a couchant pocket, over the motto "Pecun' Mittenda Est," meaning "Money must be sent."—Windsor Star

The strength of Lester Pearson's being named one of NATO's "wise men" is that he wins that nomination from the men of other countries. It is a nice honor to Canada but it is Mr. Pearson who has deserved it.—Ottawa Journal

Nowadays, in Parliament a nod, read rather than given speeches are unhappily and duly too common. This is due largely, we are afraid, not to extraneous care and consideration on the part of the speakers but to sheer laziness or timidity. However, there are some, a noble and notable few, who can stand up, with or without long preparation, and say what they have to say in terms understandable to others.—Brantford Expositor

An indignant youth entered the office of the railway company. "Here!" he said angrily to the official. "I got a cinder in my eye from one of your engines, and it cost me \$2 for a doctor to have it taken out and the eye dressed. What are you going to do about it?" "Nothing," the official replied suavely. "We have no further use for the cinder, and you are quite welcome to it. From a legal point of view, the cinder was not yours, and no doubt you could be proceeded against for removing our property. But we will take no steps in the matter."—Ottawa Journal

**T.V. JINGLES**  
BY STEW MacKAY  
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You have no conception  
Of our television's  
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Expert Television, home and car radio repairs.  
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ORIENT HOSIERY, reg. \$1.35; Special ... \$1.08

**THE FASHION SHOPPE**  
born before January 1, 1955 and for EXPECTANT MOTHERS.  
Also  
IMMUNIZATION AGAINST DIPHTHERIA, WHOOPING COUGH and TETANUS and VACCINATION AGAINST SMALLPOX  
for  
Infants from 3 months of age and Pre-school Children not receiving polio inoculations.  
Expectant Mothers must present a Doctor's Certificate.  
Ask the teacher in your district which Regional Clinic to attend. She will be notified of place and date.  
NO SCHOOL CHILDREN WILL BE GIVEN POLIO INOCULATIONS at these CLINICS.  
KEEP THIS FOR REFERENCE  
Department of Health

**POLIO INOCULATIONS FOR PRE-SCHOOL CHILDREN**  
EAST PRINCE  
Thursday, May 24 — 9:45 — Mont Carmel  
— 1:30 — Wellington Station  
Friday, May 25 — 9:45 — Traveller's Rest  
EAST QUEENS  
Tuesday, May 23 — 2:00 — Vernon Bridge ONLY  
— 3:00 — Vernon Bridge surrounding districts.  
EAST KINGS  
Wednesday, May 23 — 2:00 — Elmira.

Live hard and save money and you will have the joy of watching the neighbors call you a "conservative old mossback."—Brandon Sun  
A new type of sofa converts into a bed at the touch of a button—a nice way of letting tiresome visitors know they have overstayed their welcome.—Oshawa Times-Gazette.  
The engineer of a train involved in a fatal accident at a level crossing is often the only person involved who is aware of impending tragedy. As the train hurtles to its grisly rendezvous he suffers the particular anguish of being a spectator to a tragedy in which he is involved and which he is powerless to prevent or avoid. Eternal vigilance is the price of personal safety when crossing a railroad track.—Bellville Intelligencer  
British Columbia Attorney General Robert Bonner says crime is negligible in this province. "We have an occasional bank holdup and homicide, but by and large they are the exception," he is reported to have said. This is strange news indeed, coming as it does from the mouth of a man who should know. It indicates either that Mr. Bonner's definition of the word "negligible" is different than that of Webster's, or that the news stories we have been reading in recent years about crime in B.C. have been figments of some reporter's imagination.—Lethbridge Herald

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ORIENT HOSIERY, reg. \$1.35; Special ... \$1.08

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