

THE GUARDIAN

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CIRCULATION

"Covers Prince Edward Island like the dew"

"The strongest memory is weaker than the weakest ink"

CHARLOTTETOWN FRIDAY, JAN. 22, 1954

The Late Colonel Rogers

News of the sudden death last evening of Lieut. Colonel Keith S. Rogers will come as a shock to all our citizens...

Colonel Rogers was, of course, best known as the founder and president of the Island Radio Broadcasting Company, Ltd., and as one of the pioneers in radio broadcasting in Canada.

As president of the insurance company of W. K. Rogers Ltd., Colonel Rogers took prominent part in the business activities of the community...

Colonel Rogers was zealous in boosting his native Province at home and abroad, in developing Island talent and encouraging the younger generation in every way.

The Guardian joins with all our citizens in extending sincere sympathy to Mrs. Rogers and family on this occasion...

Eisenhower Policies

Throughout the autumn of 1953, notes the Winnipeg Free Press, various officials of Mr. Eisenhower's Government...

It is apparent from the President's recent State of the Union message to the Congress that he has rejected this counsel as being based upon erroneous assumptions and dangerous.

Considering the pressures around him, the President's decisions, as stated definitely in the field of Government fiscal policy, required courage, but they are dependent, of course, on the views of a Congress greatly concerned with its popularity in this year's election.

the immediate calculation of electoral votes. The next few months will show whether his assumptions about the economy are correct and whether the Congress is ready to accept his advice.

Inflationary Education

There is a certain similarity between the inflationary process in economics and the stresses to which modern education is being subjected. Inflation, whatever its original cause may be, is characterized by the ascending spiral of higher prices...

As money is the yardstick in economics, so degrees and certificates are regarded as the measure of educational qualifications. The possession of a degree or at least a high school certificate is obviously a desirable thing in its way just as bringing home a fat pay envelope has its advantages.

The difficulty is that not all students are capable of or interested in the kind of work that is represented by the award of the degree or certificate. The temptation is, therefore, to alter the requirements for its attainment to permit it to be given for a variety of qualifications sufficiently broad to allow all to attain the goal.

There is much to be said for giving everyone the same number of years in school but it must be recognized that if the old certificates and degrees are distributed to all they will rapidly lose value. It would be unfair to lead young people to think otherwise. If, for a time, the public continues to accept the official qualifications at their old value then it is the public that is being short-changed and disappointed.

Tawdry Demonstrations

Gibraltar was ceded to the British Crown by Spain in 1713 under the provisions of the Treaty of Utrecht; a British possession and fortress it has remained to this day. In no sense is it a menace to Spanish sovereignty; on the contrary circumstances might very well arise which would make it of invaluable assistance to the security of the Spanish nation.

Considering Gibraltar's importance to Britain's world-wide responsibilities and, indeed, to the military and commercial strength of the whole free world, it is unthinkable that any British government would seriously consider relinquishing title to it. This the Spanish people, who are by no means lacking in military sense, must realize.

It is, therefore, not easy to understand why they have allowed a few over-ambitious demagogues among them to incite them to cheap and tawdry demonstrations which, according to news reports, are scheduled for the day of Her Majesty's visit. Such demonstrations could have no practical value so far as Spanish prestige is concerned; they might even weaken that prestige in its relationship with friendly neighbours.

EDITORIAL NOTES

That the Federal Minister of Agriculture should have been put on vitamin treatments is perhaps a symptom of some of agriculture's difficulties. If Canadians took time out to eat wisely they would enjoy better health and the farmer a better livelihood.

New houses in Scotland in 1953 are likely to have reached a record total of 40,000, when the year's final figures are known, reports News from Scotland. In the past eight years over 200,000 new houses have been built and one family in every seven has moved into a brand-new home.

Lenin, or Vladimir Ilyitch Ulianov, first president of the Union of Socialist and Soviet States of Russia, died this date 1924. His father was a school inspector but Lenin's early years were spent in an atmosphere of revolutionary protest. He was seventeen when his brother was executed.

Sights And Sounds



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.

ACADEMIC STANDARDS

Sir.—In Wednesday's issue of The Guardian, the author of "We and Our Neighbours" denies Dr. Neatby's assertion that "progressivism" is rampant in U.S. public schools.

Mrs. Frank's contention is not supported by Arthur E. Bestor in his book "Educational Wastelands" (1953). On page 55, he quotes from the official report of the National Association of Secondary-School Principals, the following statements made by a school principal: "Through the years we've built a sort of halo around reading, writing, and arithmetic. We've said they were for everybody. The Three R's for All Children and All Children for the Three R's!"

"When we come to the realization that not every child has to read, figure, write and spell, then we shall be on the road to improving the junior high curriculum. Between this day and that, a lot of selling must take place. We shall some day accept the thought that it is just as illogical to assume that every boy must be able to read as it is that each one must be able to perform on the violin."

The author himself declares on pages 57-58: "The classical languages have virtually disappeared from the high schools, but the modern foreign languages have been buried alive with them in a common, unmarked grave—grammar itself has become an obscene word to most professional educationists."

"We must face the facts. Up-and-coming public school educationists are not talking about substituting one scholarly discipline for another. They stopped talking about that years ago. They are talking about the elimination of all scholarly disciplines."

"Across the educational world today stretches an iron curtain which the professional educationists are busily fashioning. Behind it, in slave-labor camps, are the classroom teachers, whose only hope of rescue is from without. On the other side lies the free world of science and learning, menaced but not yet conquered. American intellectual life is threatened because the first 12 years of formal schooling in the U.S.A. are falling more and more completely under the policy-making control of a new breed of educator who has no real place in the world of scientists, scholars, and professional men."

It is fervently to be hoped that "progressivism" has not got the same stranglehold on our educational system as it has on the American. There, teachers are expected to grapple with such problems as "improving the child's appearance," "selecting a family dentist," "making things," "tinkering hobbies," "developing wholesome boy-girl relationships," "camping," "collecting art objects," "doing parlor stunts," etc. American teachers are virtually condemned to play the inglorious role of understudies to every health official except the pedagogue. Dorothy Thompson agrees with Dr. Neatby that the remedy is "to go all the way back to 'traditional' education." "Unless the West gets back to the real roots of its culture, it will simply end in moral and intellectual chaos," says Dorothy.

If we have to lower our academic standards to such a level that the classroom becomes a congenial place for congenial dullards, chronic sluggards, and quasi-morons, we shall speedily become a nation of "hewers of wood and drawers of water." I am, Sir, etc.

W. J. ENRIGHT, Charlottetown.

Indialogue

By Gerald Steele 4th Year S.D.U. Student THE CONDITION OF WOMEN

One of the great contributions of Christianity which is often not recognized, is the firm establishing of the dignity of woman. Great pagan cultures have flourished and still flourish, but a common blot on the lustre of all of them is the degradation of the position of woman. In many cultures the happiness and pleasures of man are the end of all, and all aspects of society are subordinated accordingly. The condition of Roman Christianity were felt, is sufficient illustration of the result when the proper place of woman is not understood. Indeed many of the most repellent aspects of our own culture are directly traceable to the refusal by man to give, and the failure of women to demand, that respect which is more consonant with her purpose in life and conducive to the better functioning of society.

Because God chose a woman, Mary, to make possible His divine plan of salvation, and because Christian society has since honored her as the ideal of womanhood, women in a true Christian culture enjoy a unique position. Not only has Christianity given a model whereby woman's true position is to be determined, but it has established the realization that the purpose of life on earth is not in time but in eternity. Also, a woman as a person is equal in human dignity to the possessors of the earth and is therefore to be treated as a creature of God desiring salvation while being of assistance to others on the same path. This is the legacy of womankind in a Christian culture.

Because of various customs in Hindu society arising either from original texts of sacred books, from the necessity of the moment or from additions to and misinterpretations of the law books, Indian women traditionally have led very trying lives. Their position in the present day has bettered considerably but it is still far from what could be desired. Speaking of an Indian woman generally, it may be said that as a wife she is shown some consideration by the family, as a mother she is obeyed, but as a woman having a human personality and human feelings she, is not thought too much of.

Perhaps a better picture can be had by following from birth the fortunes of one whom we shall call Comola. At her birth the family rejoiced but little and her father was even disappointed. For both religious and practical reasons they would have preferred a boy, but... Things would be worse for Comola had she lived a few generations ago for she might be left exposed to die or else be thrown into a nearby stream considered as sacred. Quite possibly in her later life she will regret not having met this fate, but right now she is a tot unconscious of her surroundings she is happy. Her mother is very busy about the house but Comola is not lacking care and affection. The family is large with many aunts, uncles and cousins, and as they all share in the task of caring for her, she is unaware of the existence of anyone she would regard as a mother. Soon she is able to do small jobs such as scouring pots, carrying small jars of water or sweeping the floor. Any effort is encouraged for there is much to be done. The odds are against Comola's getting an education for there is probably no school in the vicinity, and if there is one, either her society does not approve of education for women or the amount of work to be done in the household requires her assistance.

By the time she has reached the age of reason, most likely her father is already making plans for her marriage. She will not be married before she is fourteen—at least a new law says she must not—but such affairs take a long time in the arranging and social custom demands that the father succeed in finding her a husband. When he fails to do so, Comola will be looked down upon by society and will be a burden on the rest of her days as she is maintained by her father.

The husband-hunt a success, both Comola and her father are not yet rid of their worries. First of all comes the problem of the dowry which is of great importance and usually the deciding factor in determining whether or not she does get a husband. Besides reducing marriage to the level of a financial transaction, the custom of a large dowry will in most cases spell permanent financial ruin for the bride's father. But because he may get some exchange from the father of the groom and he is rid of the obligation of maintaining his daughter, a father may not fare too badly, provided he does not have many daughters. The dowry on the other hand sometimes tends to make marriages more permanent. This is so because as long as the marriage lasts, the property given as dowry is shared by both husband and wife, but on failure of the marriage, the share of the dowry, faulting partner is lost to the innocent party. This in most cases is sufficient reason for caution by both parties.

I attended one Hindu marriage and considered the apparent grief of the young bride as pitiful. She may have been crying for joy but the circumstances would not warrant that conclusion. Because girls have little freedom of movement and are not permitted any association with those of the other sex, the chances are that the young lady meets her husband for the first time at her marriage or at most knew him previously as an acquaintance. Also the fact that she is leaving her home and village for the first time to live in the household of her husband, does not add to her comfort no matter how pleased she may or may not be with her new companion.

After the completion of the marriage ceremony which lasts about a whole day and the celebrations which may extend for a week, the young bride departs for her new home and new life, uncertain of the future. For some time previously she has been prepared by her mother for her new status, but once outside her village walls she is a stranger in the world. Even those having experienced in-law troubles in our own society will, I am sure, have difficulty in imagining the feelings of a young maiden suddenly placed in a situation where because of the joint-family system, she may have to contend with many dozens of in-laws. If she is liked, the readjustment may not be too difficult, but with the least amount of friction there are innumerable ways of making life almost unbearable for her. She may become a favorite or a virtual slave subject to the abuses of everyone.

Whatever her condition, there must be a reason for the saying that every young bride in India hopes above all for one thing—that is that one day she may be a mother-in-law herself.

QUICK ANSWER

GANDER, Nfld., (GP)—The federal transport department has solved the time some problem for overseas passengers at this big air base. Three different clocks show the time in Newfoundland, in London and New York.

Notes By The Way

The only time most people will listen to both sides is when they're playing a record.—Hamilton Spectator.

Something called the "Fashion Foundation of America" predicts that in 1954 men's trousers will end four inches above the ankle. Is this a harbinger of a wet spring?—Edmonton Journal.

Our sympathy goes out to any candidate who has lost his voice. It must be terrible for a politician to have nothing to say and be unable to say it.—Kitchener-Waterloo Record.

No one is absolutely safe in moving about this modern world. But he is much safer riding in a plane than crossing a city street. Mathematically, the chances of a plane accident are infinitesimally low. If a person were born in a plane, stayed there, and continued to fly non-stop he would reach the ripe age of seventy-eight before he was due for an accident.—Financial Post.

The world's airlines carried over fifty million passengers in 1953, Golden Jubilee year of the first flight of a powered, heavier-than-air machine. This is a tremendous achievement, but it was gained by making air travel possible for millions who could not afford it. This introduction of tourist fares on hundreds of popular lines presents the airlines with a peculiar problem, long familiar in mass production: business is booming but profit margin is dangerously small.—Montreal Gazette.

A two-year course to train nursing assistants is to get under way at the Central Technical School in Toronto next September. It is another experiment in an effort to provide our hospitals with sufficient nursing help. Ordinary training schools in hospitals are not meeting the needs, and there is no immediate prospect of them doing so. Yet it is necessary there be sufficient nursing services in our hospitals. Some Canadian hospitals have had to close up floors, despite the accommodation in them being required, and others are operating with very short staffs. The situation often is desperate.—Windsor Daily Star.

There is a dazzle to greatness that often deceives the onlooker and makes him believe that the virtues of the great are in proportion to their reputation. Unfortunately it is not always so; not all great men are good, nor good men great. The qualities of greatness are difficult to define; goodness may be one of them, but not invariably. The perspective of history has made Genghis Khan and Napoleon great men, but neither of them was what this world would consider a good man. Whatever other qualities greatness has, it always includes breadth of vision and comprehensiveness of mind, even though it be limited to one subject.—Hamilton Spectator.

But unto every one of us is given grace according to the measure of the gift of Christ... And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; for the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ: till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ.

The Poet's Corner

TO THE STONE-CUTTERS Stone-cutters fighting time with marble, you foredefeated. Challengers of oblivion. Eat cynical earnings, knowing rock splits, records fall down. The square-shouldered Roman letters. Scale in the thaws, wear in the rain. The poet as well. Builds his monument mockingly. For man will be blotted out, the blithe earth die, the brass sun die blind and the blacken to the heart: Yet stones have stood for a thousand years, and pained thoughts found. The honey of peace in old poems. —Robinson Jeffers.

Old Charlottetown

(And P. E. I.)

From The Examiner, Sept. 8, 1883: Mr. Tid, chief engineer of the Waterworks, arrived from Boston last night, and in company with Mr. Coffin and Hon. D. Laird, chairman of Commissioners, inspected the work at the pumping station, and expressed himself thoroughly satisfied with the progress made.

Mr. Leo L. Chappelle has kindly given an excellent bust of Charles Stewart Parnell (said to be one of the best likenesses of this prominent Home Ruler) to be competed for at the coming regatta by boys under 12 years of age. In single scull boats. Mr. J. A. Cameron has also presented a silver cup for the single scull shell race.

Mr. Thomas Parsons, blacksmith of this city, dug several big potatoes in his field recently, the greatest number of which weigh one-and-a-half pounds each, and one or two one-and-three-quarter pounds. A nicely executed crayon drawing representing two children, the work of Miss Harris, sister of Mr. G. M. Harris of this city, has been on exhibition in one of the show windows of the Diamond Bookstore for several days past, where it is attracting considerable attention.

Queen Square is now a delight for the whole city and for every one who visits it; but the fence around it is still disgraceful. The incongruity of the lawn-like grass and brilliant flowers within the enclosure and the old, broken, weather-worn, run-like fence is positively painful.

The Age Old Story

But unto every one of us is given grace according to the measure of the gift of Christ... And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; for the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ: till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ.

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