

THE GUARDIAN

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"The Strongest Memory is Weaker Than the Weakest Ink"

CHARLOTTETOWN, FRIDAY, DEC. 21, 1951

Piercing The Iron Curtain

A basic factor in Soviet policy, as in that of its Russian predecessors, is the maintenance of an iron curtain to keep the Russian people from being influenced by contact with the outside world and easy dupes for whatever the current party line may happen to be.

The most elaborate precautions are taken to eliminate or control the ordinary contacts of people, whether of commerce, literature, science or the casual movement of individuals or groups. Unfortunately, from the Russian point of view, radio can readily jump across frontiers and the airwaves are thus a glaring breach in the wall, which has been set up between the Communist and non-Communist worlds.

That breach has been blocked, very largely, by devoting a large proportion of Soviet stations to the task of "jamming" broadcasts from outside. Transmitting stations are located with the express purpose of broadcasting noise to prevent the reception of the unwanted programmes.

The latest American move in this struggle of the airwaves is to establish floating transmitting stations to beam their message on Russia from positions which are constantly shifting and are consequently very much more difficult to jam than a set operating from a fixed locale.

Amplifying Parliament

The Minister of Public Works, Mr. Fournier, has been under fire in the House of Commons because there is no visible sign of the proposed system amplifiers intended to make speeches more audible. The explanation of the Minister is that a decision has been reached, but that the company which designed the preferred system, that of the British House of Commons, have not yet agreed to terms of lease and maintenance.

The explanation must be accepted, despite regrets at the delay, for of course the House can only obtain a system created by a private concern by reaching agreement with its directors. Other systems were looked into by the committee and presumably did not satisfy the requirements of the House. Now it is just a matter of agreeing on terms for the preferred system of what are termed "low-speakers".

Most Significant Trend

"Canadian Business" notes that when the history books of this century are written it is unlikely that the year 1951 will come in for any special mention. But it might well be incorporated in that section which will be designated "the decline and fall of individualism." Certainly the year now closing has provided further evidences that the privileges and responsibilities of the individual are being assigned to the State.

In Canada at least it can be noted that such assignments are voluntary. Inflation, induced by Russian aggression and the threat of war, has become not only a national but an international problem. To control it the Government of Canada has been forced to intervene directly in the affairs and activities of the citizens. There are few who deny that fighting inflation is a legitimate activity of government but it is important to recognize that this task of government entails a fairly detailed control over the action of individuals. And if, as many persons believe, the cold war and inflation are with us for a decade or longer it is more than probable that Canadians will come to regard government intervention and control as part of the regular pattern of life.

It is also noted that in purely domestic matters Canadians have indicated their willingness to have government play a bigger role. A universal old-age pension of \$40 per month at age 70 has become a part of our social security program. Earlier this year the Massey Commission Report on Arts, Letters and Sciences was published. If the Commission's recommendations are implemented, the Government will become an important force in the cultural field.

It is important, says "Canadian Businessman", that the majority of citizens recognize this trend. Indifference is the great danger; it is that which encourages governments to assume responsibilities which should remain with the individual. This is not to deny that the legitimate work of

government has grown enormously in recent years. There is still, however, a wide area in which the individual can take responsibility. And in view of the strong trend away from individualism every citizen must look for opportunities where he and his community can take action outside of government. A responsible, democratic people must be ready to offer alternatives whenever the careless, the indifferent or the outright lazy want to push some new job over to government.

EDITORIAL NOTES

The Republic of Ireland has solved the vexed problem of whether to tip or not to tip. Hotel keepers have decided to make tipping compulsory.

It is all too easy to ignore safety precautions at this season but the need for care is greater, probably than at any other time.

Good work has been accomplished by the Provincial Public Works Department in keeping the roads open in spite of the unusually stormy weather.

The parking meters are having their hardest test just now. If they come through the next few months with general approval they should have no difficulty the rest of the year.

The sentence of 15 years imprisonment passed in Korea on the Moncton soldier convicted of manslaughter is subject to appeal to the Canadian Court Martial Appeal Board.

At one minute past noon Thursday the sun reaches its most southerly point and winter begins, astronomically, in the Northern hemisphere. The days start getting longer but it will be some time before any change is noticeable.

Though the weather is unusually cold even for this time of the year, there should be a good attendance to take part in the three evenings' carol singing in front of the Provincial Building, sponsored by the Junior Chamber of Commerce.

Speak of inflation! Real estate sales on the island of Montreal are \$65,000,000 more than last year, Mr. Donald A. Baillie told the annual meeting of Montreal Real Estate Board. He said that by the end of 1951 sales would be double what they were four years ago.

Defence Minister Claxton states that there is no occasion or opportunity for welfare agents in Korea. The same could have been said of any theatre of operations but it seems fairly clear that, once established, they proved their worth wherever opened. His advice to keep the troops supplied with home news is much more to the point.

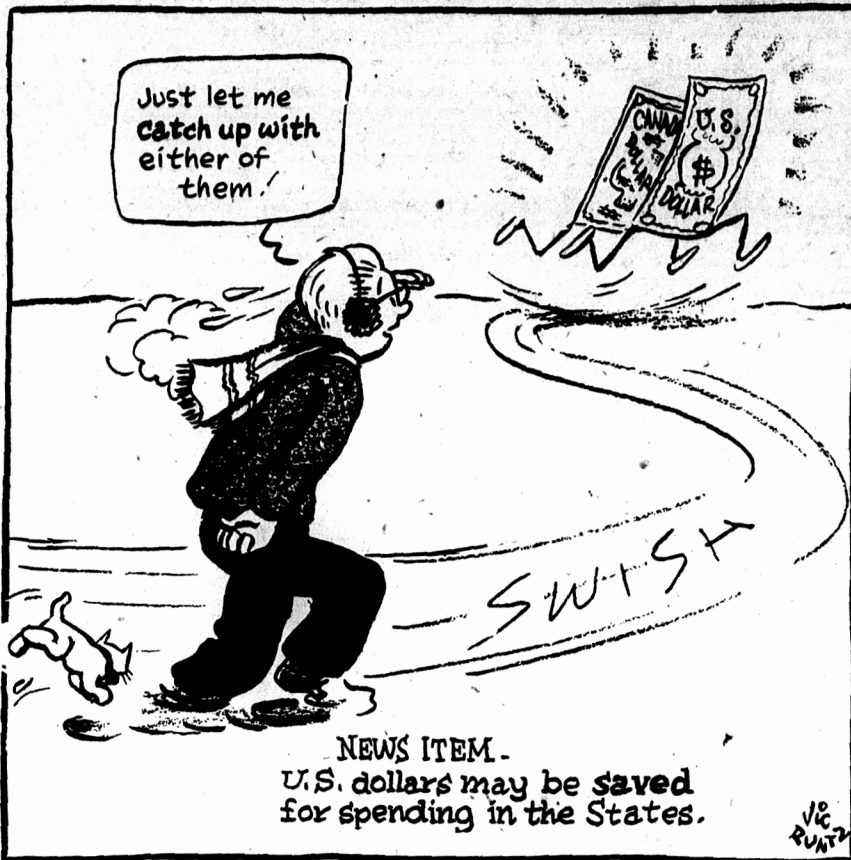
Iosif Stalin, Russian statesman, was born at Gori, Transcaucasia, this date 1879. He was almost a life-long revolutionary and was repeatedly exiled to Siberia, escaping five times. As general secretary of the central committee from 1922 he was able to consolidate his power, which was finally made complete by the purges of 1936-37.

Deep regret will be felt, especially at Rustico, at the announcement of the death of Father J. Douglas MacNeill. He was a devoted, hard-working priest, who did a tremendous lot of good, especially in co-operative work in our midst. The parish priests as a rule devote a great deal of time attempting to improve the temporary lot of their parishioners, and Father MacNeill was outstandingly successful in this respect at Rustico.

Prime Minister Churchill will not knowingly pass anything that is not just right. The other day, laying a foundation stone at Bristol, as a member of the Bricklayers Union he cast a critical eye on the stone and told startled officials it was not level. Red-faced officials produced a spirit level. The Prime Minister was right. So the square was hoisted, while the Premier smoothed the cement with his silver trowel. Then he put on his spectacles, examined the level, and passed the work as satisfactory. He believes nothing is done unless it is done right.

Silver Foxes are to fly and be in the limelight once more. Canada's second R. C. A. F. squadron to go overseas as part of North Atlantic Treaty Organization commitments, No. 441 of St. Hubert, Que., will leave in February. No. 441, known as The Silver Fox Squadron, will join No. 410 Cougar Squadron at the R. C. A. F.'s new fighter wing at North Luffenham, Eng. No. 441, commanded by Sqdn. Ldr. Andrew MacKenzie, 31, of Montreal, will sail from Saint John, Feb. 13 aboard the Empress of France. It will fly Sabre jet aircraft.

First Things First



NEWS ITEM. U.S. dollars may be saved for spending in the States.

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.

ELMIRA MAIL

Sir—If your paper would be so kind as to permit me to write a few lines on our east end mail service, I would like to know the answers to the following:

Why did not the Post Office have arrangements made in ample time so that, when the roads were blocked, and our mail had to come by train, there would be a courier to take the mail off the train at night and have the outward mail returned to the train in the morning?

I would like to point out an instance in Elmira. On Saturday Dec. 15th, parcels were given to our mailman; and they were still in Elmira Post Office Tuesday p.m. Dec. 18th, our mail having been taken off the train Monday night by a couple of people who wanted their mail badly enough to wait coming after it. But on Tuesday a.m. when the train left, no body was around to take the big bags of Christmas presents over, so that people would get them in time.

Perhaps they will not go Wednesday morning either unless the public goes to do it, or the Post Office will have had a man hired for that purpose.

Surely there is someone in the Post Office Department who has slipped up and will see to it that this matter is attended to at once, as it is very unsatisfactory service for this day and age.

I am, Sir, etc.,

A CHRISTMAS MAILER.

Elmira.

MR. McISAAC'S ARTICLES

Sir—The Dec. 19th issue of The Guardian carried a letter which I presume was meant to be a reply to mine of an earlier date. Although this letter contributes little new to the matter under debate it might be well to make a timely observation. On investigation I find that Mr. McIsaac's follower of Morell is a recent product of our efficient, time-tested educational scheme. Would he for one moment admit that he himself did not receive something worthwhile?

Perhaps he considers himself the exception. It seems strange though that one so fresh from school should presume to have all the answers and undertake to cast aspersions at the system that made him—sort of biting the hand that feeds you, is it not? I have been informed too that Mr. Driscoll was sent to Europe for a summer's study by our Department of Education. He very cleverly omits any reference to Mr. McIsaac's appraisal of European conditions. Can it be that he shares my opinion that his views on Europe are as unreliable as those on conditions here at home?

He asks the question, "What is wrong with farmers joining hands with fellow farmers?" The inference of course is that the Marketing Board idea is just that. Nothing could be farther from the truth. This is a scheme which has been foisted on the farmers. It is pure compulsion—Hitler style.

How many of the producers and dealers really asked for it? How many want regimentation? Marketing is a specialized field and only those with their own money at stake in it can do a good job. Producers did pretty well in the past. They have had their ups and downs of course, likewise the dealers. When a good product is put up but not too much of it a fair price is always to be had—and this because there is competition. Any dealer knows that if he does not pay the price another will.

We hear a cry for electoral reform. I fall to see how adding one more member to our present thirty is any great reform. Why not reduce the number to ten and make the job worthwhile? This would increase the calibre of the members

The Age-Old Story

Now Samuel was dead, and all Israel had lamented him and buried him in Ramah, even in his own city. And Saul had put away those that had familiar spirits, and the wizards out of the land. And the Philistines gathered themselves together, and came and pitched in Shunem; and Saul gathered all Israel together, and they pitched in Gilboa. And when Saul saw the host of the Philistines, he was afraid, and his heart greatly trembled. . . . Then said Saul unto his servants, Seek me a woman that hath a familiar spirit, that I may go to her, and enquire of her. And his servants said to him, Behold, there is a woman that hath a familiar spirit at En-dor. And Saul disguised himself, and put on other raiment, and he went, and two men with him, and they came to the woman by night; and he said, I pray thee, divine unto me by the familiar spirit, and bring me him up, whom I shall name unto thee. . . . Then said the woman, Whom shall I bring up unto thee? And he said, Bring me up Samuel. . . . And he said, I have brought thee up, and guarantee a better type of citizen in politics.

No, Sir, Mr. McIsaac may be sincere but oh, so impractical. A few hard knocks in the school of experience will clear his vision, cool his ardor and bring him back to sanity. This is our hope.

I am, Sir, etc.,

Mount Stewart, R.R.

OLD CHARLOTTETOWN

(And P. E. I.)

INCENDIARISM

The cottage of the Hon. Donald Macdonald, near Arisaig Mills, on Township No. 35, was totally destroyed by fire on the night of Sunday last. No person was living in the house at the time. At the same time, the barn and out-buildings belonging to the same gentleman at Glenaladale, on Township No. 36, shared the same fate. No doubt exists as to its being the work of incendiaries. It is to be hoped that a searching investigation will be made, touching this serious offense, that, if possible, a stop may be put to the progress among us of so fearful a method of avenging injuries, whether fancied or real. It will be in the recollection of our readers that not many weeks since, the premises of the Rev. James Brady, R.C. clergyman, were destroyed in a similar manner, at a great distance from the scene of the present outrage.

The Islander, July 26, 1850. In the same issue appeared an advertisement from Mr. Macdonald offering, as a reward for information leading to the conviction of the incendiaries, "two hundred acres of land in fee simple, fronting on Bedford Bay or Hillsborough River, provided the discovery is made within six months of this time." This offer does not appear to have elicited any concrete information.

OLD TIMER.

Throne, and for all who would believe in Him, the blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against them, and took it out of the way, nailing it to His Cross. In the light of the Bible, the manger, apart from Calvary, would have no meaning whatever for millions of the Lord's redeemed.

That Christ would be the King over life and death, or "the lord of both the dead and the living." He came into the world to give His life on Calvary. He said Himself: "To this end came I into the world, for this cause was I born." John 18: 37. The real meaning of Christmas is not to be found in the best literary productions about Christ, such as Dickens' "Christmas Carol," Robert Louis Stevenson's "Christmas Eve," nor in the many legends connected with it, directly or indirectly, which have been added to the simple unostentatious first Christmas Day.

We have not true peace in the world this Christmas season, because Jesus Christ, the Prince of Peace, has been dethroned from His rightful place in controlling the hearts and the lives of the peoples of the several nations—yes, of all the nations. How can we have true peace, in the associations and dealings of nations and individuals with one another, with the Prince of Peace left out? "Woe to the nations that take counsel of themselves but not of the Lord." Isaiah 40: 26. Upon the Throne, having all powers, we can rest-assured that all things will work together for good on behalf of right principles and the right way of life towards a triumphant and glorious end. We have not essential peace in social, national and international affairs at this Christmas season. But what could we expect? What could we have hoped for from our mistaken notions about what makes progress in a nation?

Alexis de Toqueville, a statesman, scholar and author, of France, in his book on "The American Republic," written at the request of and for the French Government, rightly stated that America owed her greatness to the Christian Religion, and not to her vast resources, nor to any schemes and plans that public men so often tell us, will make for progress. Truly, Christianity, in the hearts of people, can also make Canada moral, great, strong and influential. Other ways, that we think make for progress, are now costly and may eventually prove to be too costly for this nation. Through what may be termed destructive greed and selfishness we may grow too often forget our own fellow

Notes By The Way

Midget submarines caused much of the destruction to the United States Pacific fleet anchored in Pearl Harbour on December 6, 1941. Midget size is not always an asset in war. Elusiveness is sometimes just as important, and the bantam-sized infantryman may be as useful as the six-footer. —Ottawa Citizen.

Tractors are helping missionaries to spread the Christian faith in Africa, reports the Bishop of Lebombo, the Rt. Rev. John Soys. They are even winning the fight against the age-old custom of polygamy. The bishop tells of one old chief who exclaimed, "Why this machine can do far more work than ten wives" — and promptly decided that henceforth one wife would be enough. —Answers (London).

A few years ago the name of Klock avenue was changed to Algonquin avenue, in honor of the famous Algonquin Regiment. There is another street in our city which, in our opinion, should have its name changed, and that is Golf street. This short street appears to be the most misnamed thoroughfare in the community. No golf is played anywhere near it and the name is not applicable. —North Bay Nugget.

Mrs. George Bernard Shaw left a fortune "to teach the Irish good manners." No wonder the legacy has been contested in the courts. To teach the Irish good manners would be impossible. In that field they are the instinctive masters. Any visitor to Ireland can prove it for himself. One such visitor was Lieut. Gen. Sir Adrian Carton de Wiart, V.C. He has just written of his experiences in the Sunday Times, "Their good manners," he says, "are more than an attribute; they are a quality." Sir Adrian asked an Irish girl where a mountain road led. Oh, anywhere you like," she answered. A century and a half ago, Sir Walter Scott, the poet and novelist, was travelling in Ireland. He gave a shilling to a beggar. "Mind you, Pat," he admonished, "You must pay me back." "And may your lordship live to receive it," was the perfect response. The Irish cannot learn good manners. Their manners spring from the heart, as from a clear crystal fountain. —Montreal Gazette.

At the annual dinner of the British Olympic Association the Duke of Edinburgh expressed his confidence that Great Britain would make a good showing in next year's Games at Helsinki. He could hardly have done otherwise; but in actual fact the outlook at the moment is not particularly hopeful. For this country to be represented at all requires funds which the British Olympic Association does not as yet possess; and to ensure that we are worthy representatives, in the case of most classes of athletes, longer and more intensive training than has been regarded as necessary in the past or can be easily arranged in the circumstances of the present. These difficulties will, and indeed must, be overcome. The British cult of the amateur is an honorable as well as an engaging one, but there is a difference between being an amateur and appearing amateurish. We cannot do better than our best at Helsinki, and our best is perhaps not likely to win us a position of supremacy. —(London Spectator).

An Italian immigrant in West Warwick, Rhode Island, was smitten with toothache the other day, and he wanted to get the tooth extracted. But his knowledge of English is limited and he did not know how to obtain service as he could not read a dentist's door-plate if he saw one. However, he appears to have some useful grey matter between his ears. He set up a pile of kindling near the main street and set fire to it, hoping that his act would attract a crowd, among whom he would find someone who could talk his language. Sure enough a police officer came upon the scene to investigate the unusual fire, and by good luck the cop was Sgt. Joe Fontarelli, who had himself been an Italian immigrant. To him the Italian explained his predicament and the sergeant took him to a hospital where his want was attended to. This young Italian should go far after he has mastered the English language. —(St. Thomas Times-Journal).

Officials state that the under world has set up an elaborate organization for the contraband traffic in cigarettes. RCMP officers state that actual seizures and losses mean little to the smugglers. Ontario tobacco growers have made spotting investigations on their own and they maintain that probably a hundred trucks get through for every one that is caught. —Owen Sound Sun-Times.

Constable Harvey Adams of the Ontario Provincial Police, has a date later this week with Mount Union College, in Alliance, Ohio, and all because of kindness he showed last September to three fishermen from that state. The Ohio men were on a fishing trip in Canada when their car was involved in an accident near Sharnol Lake, north of Kingston. Constable Adams made an official investigation, then offered the tourists the use of his own car while theirs was being repaired. They accepted the offer, resumed their interrupted journey, and, we hope, had good fishing. Later they picked up their own car and went home to Alliance where they told everybody about the extraordinary goodness of this Ontario policeman. The result is that Constable Adams is flying to Alliance to receive an international relations citation from Mount Union College, to address the Lions Club and a student body, to be the guest of honor at a civic luncheon and get the key to the city. It is a nice tribute to one who, we are sure, deserves it all. Few things shine so brightly against the grim background of human affairs as a simple deed of kindness done. —(Ottawa Journal).

Nature lovers in many parts of the world will note the death of Mrs. Laona Miner, widow of the late Jack Miner. She was a source of support and encouragement to him all through the years he carried on his great work of creating a bird sanctuary and protecting wild life. Some women would have resisted their husbands engaging in such "hobbies," and insisted upon their time being spent in more "practical" ways. She lived quietly, fulfilling her functions in the home, and allowing her husband full claim to the acclaim which came to him. Yet, she had been married to a lesser woman, the naturalist would not have been able to carry on his endeavours, if he did, only under domestic difficulties. In being the wife of Jack Miner and the mother of Messrs. Manley, Edward and Jack, Jr., Mrs. Miner won a fine place for herself among those who love birds and wish to protect them. —Windsor Daily Star.

We are accustomed to snicker at Soviet claims that Russians have more "practical" than anything. Most of the claims are far-fetched and obviously made to enhance such self-esteem as Russians may possess. This is not to say, however, nothing good can come out of Russia. If anything does, we should welcome it and give Russians due regard for it. As, for instance, the assertion by Tass that Soviet scientists have discovered a means of "completely exterminating" the Colorado beetle, commonly known as the potato bug. Potato bugs have been one of man's greatest pests. In those countries which they frequent, there has been a constant annual battle against them. Otherwise they would eliminate entirely one of man's greatest foods. It is a costly battle, in man-hours, equipment and poison or other materials. The Soviet "discovery," if it be true, is a chemical which, if blown into the soil, kills off all the bugs when, in the late autumn, they take shelter in the ground. Thus there are none to reproduce. One must be cynical about Russian claims, but if this be true we will owe a debt to their scientists. —Windsor Daily Star.

The Poets Corner

ST. JOSEPH'S CAROL

When I was young and hard of palm, Unbowed and unafraid— Singing to my work I went, A lad who loved his trade: And many's the yoke I shaped and smoothed And many's the stubborn plough, When I was young and gassy-haired, Whose head is silencing now. This was the joy I asked of life, To be a man with men: Ah, but the song that bursts my heart, I never dreamed of then— How to a cradle I have wrought In noisy Nazareth Town— A crib of silken cedarwood— Should Heaven itself come down! Not to King Herod's ivory house And not in purple laid— But to a man who only boasts He lies an honest trade. The babe shall be a plowing child, The child a gracious boy: He'll taste the labourer's bread of tears, The labourer's wine of joy. And let the nozzles think no scorn Of one who shapes the wood— Since that to handle plane and saw Has God Himself thought good! I am, Sir, etc., (Rev.) K. R. MacFADYEN