

THE GUARDIAN

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CIRCULATION

"Covers Prince Edward Island like the dew"

"The Strongest Memory is Weaker Than the Weakest Ink"

CHARLOTTETOWN, WEDNESDAY, DEC. 3, 1952

Wholesale Massacres

The Manchester Guardian reveals that Po Yi-Po, one of the chief dignitaries of the Peking Government, has had published in the Cominform Journal an official estimate of the numbers executed by the Chinese Communists. Thus: "In the past three years we have liquidated more than two million bandits. Bandits are non-existent in China now, and the social order has become stable as never before."

"Bandit", the Manchester Guardian points out, means anybody who possessed a little land, or who was disliked by the Communists, and adds:

"This is the first public admission by a member of the Chinese Government that the Communists have killed, by execution and not in battle or as the consequences of civil war, 2,000,000 of their subjects (the figures were broadcast by the Peking radio). Since Tamurlaine, what government would have gloried in it?"

Tamurlaine is perhaps as good a parallel as one could find in history. This Tartar conqueror of the 14th century is depicted in a play by Marlowe, Shakespeare's contemporary, as the embodiment of the lust of power in its crudest form; in one scene he appears "drawn in his chariot by the Kings of Trebizond and Syria, with bits in their mouths, reins in his left hand, and in his right hand a whip with which he scourgeth them." Stalin's satellites are usually more subtle in their methods. The hammer and sickle have replaced the sword and whip as party emblems, and there is much talk of promoting equality and the brotherhood of man; but underneath is the same implacable fury, the same blood lust and disregard of human rights and lives. Occasionally, as in the case cited in the Manchester paper, the mask slips from the benevolent image and the face of the beast is revealed.

This helps to explain why the disposal of war prisoners in Korea is regarded as so important an issue on both sides. One of our basic premises in this struggle with world Communism is that there is a great potential resistance to the Communist regimes within their own borders. The West regards that latent opposition as the biggest chink in the Red armor and, in the Korean war, has exploited it with good results. Large numbers of prisoners in the United Nations' hands surrendered because they were told they could thereby free themselves from Communist control. Thus it is held that if we now turn these prisoners back to the Communists, it would permanently deprive us of one of our most potent weapons in the struggle for world freedom. The Kremlin's recognition of that fact lies behind its insistence on forced repatriation. It will not be easy for its apologists to camouflage this motive now. The massacre of two million Chinese to achieve "stability" behind the Iron Curtain speaks grimly for itself.

Fewer Convicts

It used to be accepted that the almost certain fate of a convict was to come back again and again behind bars. The law punished him appropriately for his offence but was little concerned about the effect of the months or years in prison upon his future as a citizen. That attitude is gradually changing and the report of Canada's penitentiary commissioner, Maj.-Gen. G. R. Gibson, is distinctly encouraging.

Our penitentiary population has begun to fall off, slightly as yet, and the percentage of repeaters or recidivists has dropped significantly since the royal commission investigation of penitentiary conditions was commenced in 1948. It is too early, of course, to see anything like the full effect of even the changes in prisoner handling that have already been effected.

As Justice Minister Garson pointed out in the Commons, "Canada did not claim to have developed a completely effective technique but she is moving in the right direction." The fact is, however, that a change in the public attitude towards imprisonment is necessary before it is possible to go the whole way towards rehabilitating criminals and making them over into decent useful members of society rather than a burden on the state and a menace to their fellows.

The idea of punishment is still necessary today to satisfy the demand for re-

venge of injured persons and their friends and relatives. But for the feeling that revenge can be safely left in the hands of the law there would certainly be far more disturbances of the peace arising out of criminal acts. When we as individuals can be satisfied with the re-molding of an offender into a law-abiding citizen it will be possible to concentrate on the problem of reform.

Children And Accidents

Child fatal accident figures for Canada would seem to be higher than those in the United States: 32 per cent of children's deaths in the age group of one to four years are accidental; five to nine years, 48.9 per cent; 10 to 19 years, 46.8 per cent. In the U. S., estimated percentages of deaths among children from accidents are: One to four years, 20 per cent; five to nine years, 30 per cent; 10 to 14 years, 40 per cent.

Dr. William S. Langford, director of the Pediatric-Psychiatric Clinic, of Babies' Hospital, New York, is a noted authority on the cause and prevention of accidents in childhood, and recently released his findings on a study comparing a group of accident-repeaters and accident-free children in the New York hospital. He concluded that three types of children are most likely to be involved in mishaps: Impulsive children; those children facing an undesirable environment in the home and neighbourhood; those who are members of families where there is a high accident rate among most of the adults. Under pressure, impulsive children, he said, "are physically inefficient to cope with challenges they are attempting to undertake." The second category usually involves "an immature child in a very hazardous environment," and Dr. Langford found it surprising that "it holds pretty consistently that children in families where there are many accidents among the adult relatives usually are involved in accidents themselves."

If Dr. Langford's conclusions are to be accepted, it is obvious that the problem of combatting the greatest single cause of death among children involves even more than removing hazards for children in the home and neighbourhood. It involves, too, special precautions and training for those children who are impulsive or immature.

EDITORIAL NOTES

The Men's Chorus under the direction of Mr. William K. Rogers made a highly favourable impression by its debut at the St. Andrew's dinner. It is safe to predict that this ensemble will make a name for itself in the Province and beyond.

The position of Prince Edward island farmers as presented to the Dominion-Provincial agricultural conference is better than that of many others in Canada at the moment but when the immediate advantage of high potato prices is past we will require improved exports even more than do the others.

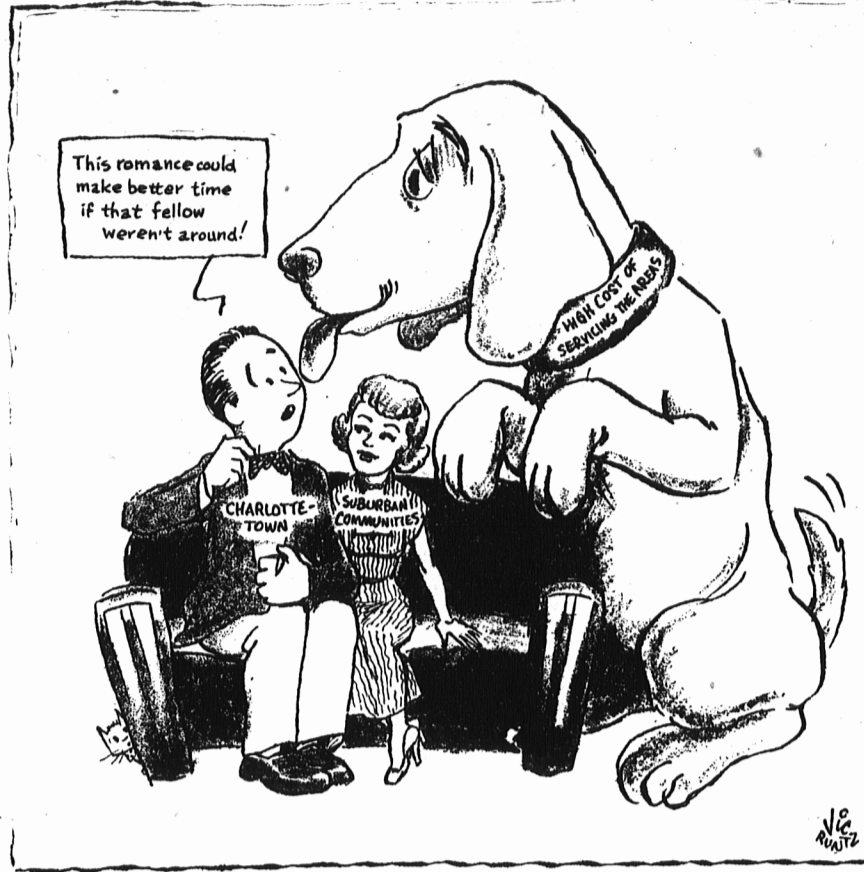
The demand for information about matters of right-of-way at intersections gives point to the need for education and examinations for driving licenses. The Province and municipalities could well provide educational material which would be more comprehensible than a mere summary of the statute and regulations.

The United Nations General Assembly has adopted the Indian proposals for bringing about a cease fire in Korea. This may not seem to bring nearer an agreement between the U. N. and the Chinese Volunteers but it faces the Communist planners with the alternative of ending the fighting or being shown to prefer its continuance to agreeing with 53 out of 58 member nations.

John Flaxman, English sculptor, died this date 1826. Son of a Convent Garden moulder of plaster figures, he earned a livelihood for some years by his beautiful designs for the chinaware of Messrs. Wedgwood. He then turned to monumental sculpture. He spent seven years in Italy perfecting that art and executing a number of masterpieces. His work is pure and simple in style and is executed in the true classic spirit.

"Light-a-bumper" stations are being set up at all New Jersey Turnpike entrances by the State Junior Chamber of Commerce. The idea is to cut the number of accidents by applying reflecting tape on automobile bumpers for a nominal charge. It is claimed that a car can be made visible up to half a mile in all kinds of weather. A similar plan was tried here some time ago, the reflecting material being applied to bicycles. What would really add to highway safety would be for pedestrians to wear reflecting belts or other garments.

Love Me, Love My Dog



The Poet's Corner

FROM SONG OF NATURE

Must time and tide forever run? Will never my winds go sleep in the west? Will never my wheels which whirl the sun And satellites have rest? Too much of donning and doffing. Too slow the rainbow fades. I weary on my robe of snow, My leaves and my cascades; I tire of globes and races. Too long the game is played: What without him in summer's pomp Or winter's frozen shade? —Ralph Waldo Emerson.

The Age-Old Story

You are our epistle written in our hearts, known and read of all men: forasmuch as ye are manifestly declared to be the epistle of Christ ministered by us, written not with ink, but with the Spirit of the living God; not in tables of stone, but in fleshy tables of the heart. . . . Not that we are sufficient of ourselves to think any thing as of ourselves; but our sufficiency is of God; who also hath made us able ministers of the new testament; not of the letter, but of the spirit; for the letter killeth, but the spirit giveth life. . . . Now the Lord is that Spirit; and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty. But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory even as by the Spirit of the Lord.

Old Charlottetown (And P. E. I.)

LADIES' AID SOCIETY

"The annual meeting of the Ladies' Industrial Aid Society was held in St. Paul's school room on Thursday. As the Society appears to be doing a good work, it may be of interest to the community to know the lines on which it works. There is a management committee of twelve, and a working committee of over sixty. A subscription of 25 cents is asked from all interested, and also donations of cast-off clothing. Meetings are held every second Tuesday, when a certain number of ladies attend to meet the poor who ask for aid. At these meetings the poor sew, and some ladies read to them. They end a pleasant afternoon with a cup and a bun.

"On Dec. 14th last the women were given a tea, with a little music, and some pleasant readings. Another feature was the Savings Bank—each woman received her savings with something added. A successful concert was given in December, which assisted the finances. Besides a number of garments, the sum of \$120.36 was received in money. The money was expended in buying material which was made into garments and sold at half price. Thirty-five poor women attended the meetings—21 Church of England, 6 Methodists, 2 Baptists, 2 Kirk, 1 Roman Catholic and 3 no denomination stated. The idea the ladies are trying to work out is: help those who try to help themselves. The meetings are pleasant; poor and rich meet together and learn to know each other."

—The Examiner, April 29, 1881.

SHALLOW LAKE

Lake Erie, most southerly of the Great Lakes, has an area of 9,940 miles and maximum depth of 210 feet.

Notes By The Way

A poultry expert says "hens should be amused," and we can't think of anything more amusing to a hen than to tell her the price we have to pay at the store for eggs. —Ottawa Citizen.

"Knitting is to a woman," says a psychologist, "as a cigar is to a man." Women will hasten to point out, however, that they don't leave dropped stitches on the living room rug. —Edmonton Journal.

It is a strange thing that so few persons will take the trouble to learn how to make an effective little speech on the platform or before the microphone. Few people have any natural gift for oratory except in private. Is that why we advise over-verbose conversationalists to "Go hire a hall?" —Ottawa Journal.

Even the finest machinery can collapse as shown in the spectacular crash in Nanaimo harbor of SS Princess of Nanaimo. The failure of a mechanical connection between the wheelhouse and the engine room sent the big ship plunging into small fish boats and a dock. It's strange to think that the safety of a big vessel, its passengers, crew and cargo can depend on a tiny wire. But such a thing is true all through this mechanical and electronic age. —Vancouver News-Herald.

Much as Americans may wish to root Reds out of any place in the U. N.—including Russia as a member—they may well weigh the gain against the cost. Can the U. N. be built up as an independent force able to represent world welfare rather than any narrow national interest? Or will each nation try to use the U. N. as an instrument of its own policy to the degree that there can be no agreement even on officials? —Christian Science Monitor.

The Government has backtracked most of the way on its television policy. . . . Private television will be allowed, apparently, only where the CBC isn't operating. The CBC is already broadcasting TV in Montreal and Toronto, is working on Ottawa, and is planning stations for Winnipeg, Vancouver and Hamilton. . . . Who is paying for the CBC television in these selected cities? The people of Canada, all the people of Canada, through the money voted by Parliament to the CBC for this work. Yet the results of this expenditure benefit only the people in those half-dozen cities. The local communities will have to support all the other TV broad-

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The Passing Scene

By Observer
THE TEACHER AND THE CROW

A man with whom I have a speaking acquaintance told me, with pride in his voice, of the great number of crows he had killed since the government put a bounty on them. He gave me to understand that his joy would be complete if the authorities would only include the sparrows and robins in their list of undesirable and unwanted residents. "For," said he, "they do as much harm as the crows."

All of which impelled me to read again Longfellow's poem "The Birds of Killingworth". It seems that in fabulous days, hundreds of years ago, the little village of Killingworth was invaded, early in the spring, by all manner of singing birds. There were the robin and the blubird who "filled all the blossoming orchards with their glee", and sparrows, "chirping as if they still were proud, their race in Holy Writ should be mentioned". Birds of passage, loitering on the way, quarrelled one with another and "laughed and railed like foreign sailors". And, of course, there were the hungry crows, for crows are everywhere. No one knew for sure just what it was they came about so persistently, but the poet suggests they were praying. "Give us, O Lord, this day our daily bread". He may have been right, too, for there is something in the Bible about One who feedeth the young ravens that call upon Him.

Any way, so the story goes, the thrifty farmers, as they tilled the earth, "heard with alarm the cawing of the crow that mingled with the universal mirth, Cassandra-like, prognosticating woe; they shook their heads and doomed with dreadful words to swift destruction the whole race of birds". What is more, they wasted the time in coming to grips with this terrible menace that had descended upon them.

Apparently, farmers in those far off days had more political influence than they seem to have now, for it was not long before they forced the village authorities to call a public meeting for the purpose of "settling a price upon the guilty heads of these marauders who, in lieu of pay, levied blackmail upon the garden beds". The Squire, in his position of chief magistrate, presided over the meeting with much dignity. The parson, too, was there, to lend whatever help he could. So also was the deacon of whom the poet says, "There never was so wise a man before". In fact, he seemed to personify the time-honoured expression, "Well, I told you so!"

The Squire summed up the purpose of the meeting in masterly fashion. "The birds, especially the crows, are undoubtedly a menace to the security of the village and they would have to go. Everyone present charged them 'with all the crimes under the sun'."

Everyone, that is, except a teacher from the academy who happened to be in love with "fair Almira in the upper class". Whether or not his being in love had anything to do with it is not clear (it probably had) but anyway he made an eloquent speech in behalf of the poor birds. He charged the crowd with conspiracy to bring about the deaths of "the ballad singers and the troubadours, the street musicians of the Heavenly city." "And what for?" he asked. Was it not simply for the gain of "a scant handful more or less of wheat, or rye, or barley, scratched up at random by

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