

THE GUARDIAN

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"The Strongest Memory is Weaker Than the Weakest Ink"

CHARLOTTETOWN, WEDNESDAY, AUG 15, 1951

Dangers of "Decorum"

"The military functionary", wrote the British philosopher Jeremy Bentham, "is paid for being shot at. The civil functionary is paid for being spoken and written at. The soldier who will not face musketry is one sort of coward. The civilian, who will not endure obloquy, is another."

Not a bad motto, that, to have inscribed over the chair of Mr. Speaker in the House of Commons. Or, for that matter, in every public place throughout the country. Especially when it is recalled that the civil functionary in Parliament enjoys a pay scale considerably greater than that of the military functionary facing Red gunfire in Korea. Moreover, the consequences of being shot at can be much more permanent than the consequences of being spoken and written at.

In this day and age when solemn conclaves of people at the United Nations and elsewhere bandy about such phrases as "human rights" and "freedom of information" it is refreshing to turn to Bentham for a clear statement of the function of public opinion in the body politic. People, whether in the mass, or in special committees, constituted, in Bentham's opinion, Public Opinion Tribunals which were an integral part of the process of self-government. Their role, said Bentham, "is to gather information about the conduct of government, suggest improvements, censor the acts of rulers, and, finally, execute its judgments by the public expression of approval or disapproval in words or acts."

With radio dominated by the monopolistic influence of the CBC, the Press remains, as always, the only authentically independent vehicle for the expression of public opinion. Its function is, as Bentham points out, part of the process of self-government. Without it self-government would be replaced by despotism.

B. C.'s Misfortune

British Columbia's drought loss of \$7,000,000 is staggering, even for that super-wealthy province with its variety of agricultural, horticultural, fishing and other industrial undertakings. We know by experience what it is to lose markets, either through poor crops or low prices for our produce.

A survey of the record-breaking drought showed millions lost in unemployment, razed timber tracts, ruined crops, and general losses in industry. Today, 25,000 are out of work as against 19,000 reported by the National Employment Service a week ago. Thousands are highly-paid loggers. Fraser Valley farmers, agricultural authorities said, have lost about \$1,000,000 in ruined crops. Forest fires have taken heavy toll and lumber operators have lost \$2,000,000. Woodworkers have dropped \$4,000,000 in wages. But the Province is not down-hearted, and will make quick recovery.

A Fatal Policy

A fatal weakness in the Federal policy of lavishing over 80 per cent of defence expenditures in the two Central Provinces, which are already bursting at the seams industrially, is pointed out by the Maritime Merchant. Should the horrors of war strike this country, Central Canada could be cut off from the Maritimes and the United States by the simple process of destroying the bridges and canals of the St. Lawrence, Niagara, Detroit, St. Clair and St. Mary's Rivers (the latter two at Sarnia and Sault Ste. Marie).

If the industrial complex of Greater Montreal and southern Ontario were disrupted by atomic attack, Canada would be left with one-fifth of its present industrial plant, and that one-fifth would be severely crippled by lack of supplies from the devastated area. If the Maritimes were isolated by an attack or sabotage, the bulk of our normal food supplies would be cut off—notably meat, flour, and canned goods. Central Canada has become more of a liability than an asset to the nation. It has grown in large measure at the expense of the outlying provinces. From the military standpoint, the two Central Provinces represent an ideal concentration of the nation's strength for an enemy bent upon our destruction.

Neither economic nor military wisdom

has been reflected in the course of Federal policy since 1867. The outlying Provinces are too weak to stand alone, and the Central Provinces are too vulnerable to escape the attention of an enemy capable of striking at the vitals of our national life.

"The government of Canada", says the Merchant, "has a duty which ought to take priority over all other duties, and it is to give immediate and far-sighted consideration to the decentralization of Canadian industry and to the strengthening of the outlying Provinces."

EDITORIAL NOTES

The third day of Old Home Week and the second day of the Exhibition.

It is a pleasure traversing the streets and footpaths of the City these days; they are all so clean and bright, a credit to the Committee and Officials.

There does not seem to be any simple mathematical relation between the old light rates and the new. It looks as if electricity users will have to wait for their first bill under the new rates to find exactly how they are individually affected.

Manitoba is going in for five-year car license plates and has had aluminum markers made in Amherst. The Island's 1952 markers have been turned out by the same firm.

American legislation requiring exact labelling of furs means something of a revolution in the industry. It should also mean improved demand for authentic furs rather than their namesakes contrived from rabbit.

The publicity resulting from the film "Johnny Belinda" is distasteful to Cape Breton, according to Dr. A. E. Kerr, President of Dalhousie University. This Province, on the other hand, rejoices in its connection with the screen masterpiece.

Twenty-five members of the Air Cadet League of Canada at present touring Britain will be received by Their Majesties the King and Queen at Balmoral Castle on August 19th and will attend the opening performance of a military tattoo at Edinburgh Castle on the same day.

Sir Walter Scott, Scottish novelist and poet, was born at Edinburgh this date 1771. A long illness in youth gave opportunity to lay up the lore of border history, ballads and military adventure. His works not only made the novel paramount in English literature, they breathed life into the dry bones of history.

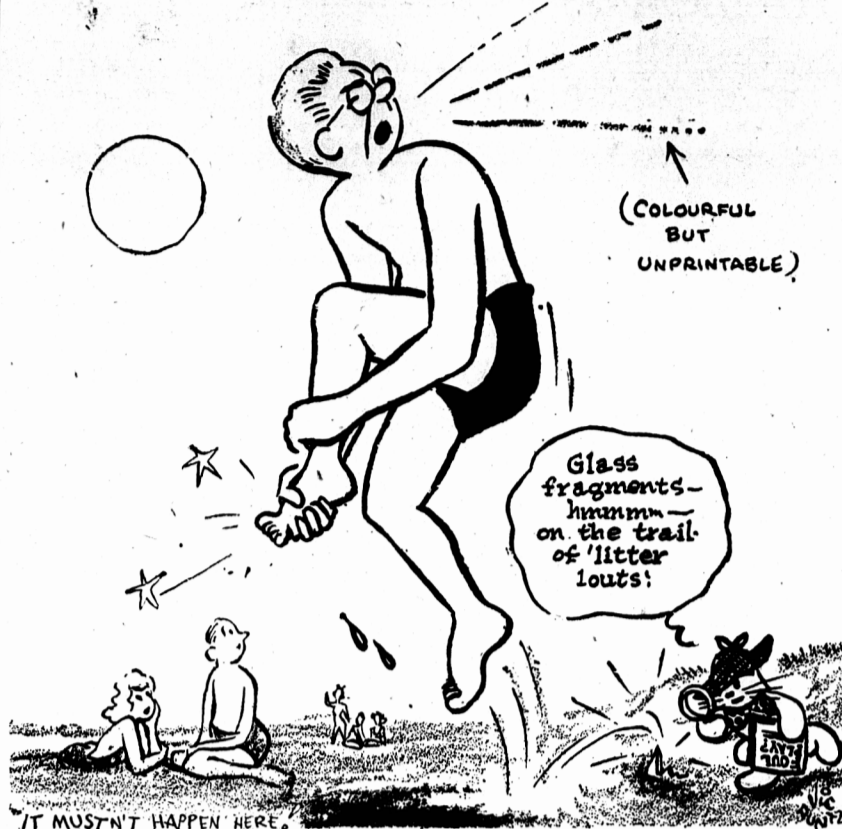
Directors of the Dairy Farmers of Canada have endorsed the recent action of the Federal Government in taking over import control of dairy products. The D. F. C., representing 450,000 dairy farmers, also will urge the Government to give assurance it will not allow any imported dairy product to be sold at prices that will depress the Canadian market price level, and that no dairy products will be imported unless there is a shortage of the product in Canada.

Premier Jones was not far wrong in claiming that the Charlottetown Exhibition was the best all-round affair of the kind, not only in Eastern Canada but in the Dominion as a whole, excepting the National Exhibition at Toronto. Calgary might be a competitor, but as he had never seen it, he could not say. It has taken years and arduous endeavour to build up our Exhibition to this proud position and a heavy responsibility which they are well able to bear, rests on the shoulders of those who have now the control and management.

Twice blessed, it blesteth him to give as well as him who receives. Some £800,000 (\$2,400,000) have been collected for the Lord Mayor of London's National Thanksgiving Fund, and it has now been decided that this fund be closed. It was launched in March last year as an expression of Britain's gratitude for food gifts received from British Commonwealth countries and from the U. S. A. Monies collected are being devoted to welfare of students in Britain from the Commonwealth and from the U. S. A.

Our Old Home Week has been imitated by other ambitious communities, but unfortunately for them they lack the natural attractions of our sea-girt isle, and the enormous possibilities we possess, as the Premier pointed out, of further developments. Properly looked after by industrious and experienced farmers and fishermen the prospects are illimitable for the production of untold wealth in our farming, fisheries and tourist resources. In the opinion of the Premier one of our greatest headaches is the lack of sufficient accommodation for passengers, cars and trucks between the mainland and here.

How To Quickly End A Perfect Day



The Problem Of The French Birth - Rate

By J. G. FEVRIER

While the last war caused France more material destruction than that of the First World War, losses in human life, however grievous, were less considerable. France's contribution to the destruction of Hitlerism amounted approximately to 400,000 dead from 1939 to 1945 and compared with 1,300,000 from 1914 to 1918.

That did not prevent the situation of France in 1945, from a demographical point of view, from being a tragic one. We remember the words of Adolf Hitler in 1938 to a foreign diplomat: "In 1940 I shall wipe France off the map of the world". In 1945 one might well wonder whether this sinister prophecy were not to be fulfilled in delayed action, whether France were not to disappear quietly away for lack of men. More than from the burden of devastation, did not France risk slowly fading away as a result of the progressive reduction of her population? Let us sum up the facts. From 1914 to 1918, 1,300,000 dead; approximately one million children less on account of the war. From 1919 to 1939 an alarming decline in the birth-rate. During the period 1936-38 alone, the annual birth-rate had dropped to 149 or 10,000 inhabitants. It was the lowest figure for the whole of Europe, and in the course of this period the death-rate began to exceed the birth-rate. Only naturalization of foreigners concealed this tendency. Then, from 1939 to 1945, not only the hundreds of thousands of Frenchmen dead on the battlefield, in Gestapo jails or concentration camps, but the keeping in captivity of French soldiers captured by the Germans. This led to the deportation of part of French workmen to German factories inevitably led to a drop in the birth-rate. From 41,900,000 in 1938 the French population fell to 40,300,000 in 1946.

The problem was one of extreme gravity. One of the few merits of the Vichy Government was to realize this and to try and develop legislative measures to encourage the family. After the Liberation, under the influence of different political groups, particularly the Popular Republican Movement, this tendency became more marked. France is at present one of those countries granting more effective aid to the family. This aid takes two different forms: direct allocations and tax exemptions. In the first case, it favours especially the lower income groups; in the second, it is of the greatest advantage to the better-off.

Family benefits are of four kinds:—

- (1) On the birth of the first child, and in certain conditions, an allowance is paid to the mother.
(2) A separate family allowance is paid to the head of the family for every dependent child after the second. This allowance increases according to the number of children.
(3) An allowance called the single wage is paid to non-working mothers.
(4) Lastly, pre-natal allowances are paid during pregnancy. Funds corresponding to these very considerable payments are in principle supplied from contributions paid by employers and corresponding to 16% of wages. In some cases (for instance, for civil servants) this responsibility falls on the State. On the other hand, the general income tax, or progressive tax, is reduced to a greater degree when the number of persons comprising the family becomes larger.

In fact, family allowances would be far more effective if young couples could be certain to find decent housing, spacious enough for them to bring up their children. That is not the case, alas! And of all the troubles existing after the war the housing crisis is the most acute. The reconstruction budget, despite the very considerable sums allocated to it, has been able so far to give only

Old Charlottetown

(And P. E. I.)

UPTON PARK RACES

The Examiner of Sept. 25 and 26, 1877, reports the results of a lively two-day series of horse races at Upton Park, culminating in the stallion race for a stake of \$30 each, a gold medal and the championship of the Island. It was won in three straight heats by Mr. F. Hardy's stallion Jeff, with Royal Harry, owned by Dr. J. T. Jenkins, winning three straight seconds. Best time, 2:47. Royal Harry, it is explained, had only been a few days in training, and was in no condition to trot. "He was merely put in to add interest to the race." The other contestants were Messenger Boy (A. N. Large) and Bagnall's Messenger (R. Bagnall), both of whom were distanced.

Another interesting event was the running race, all ages, won by S. Carver's horse Tartan. The heats are described in detail, but the time is not given. Other horses in the race were Fair Maid (C. Dockendorf), Jenny Lind (A. MacMillan), Island Girl (A. Clow), Blue Belle (J. C. Pope). The judges were Dr. S. W. Dodd, C. C. Gardiner, James Tuplin and James Currie. The races says The Examiner drew "large crowds, some on foot and others in all sorts of vehicles." All the notables of the Province appear to have been present. A sensational accident occurred at the conclusion of the steeple chase, when a boy named Abel Dower was run over, and the horse and driver nearly thrown to the ground. The boy was attended by several physicians on the ground, and seems to have sustained no serious injury.

HE SAID NO

John Forsyth, British inventor, once refused a French offer of £20,000 for an artillery device he perfected.

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AGENTS THROUGHOUT THE PROVINCE

Notes By The Way

Those organizations which the churches are inclined to view as enemies because they present counter attraction, do not close down in the Summer time. Rather most of them find the Summer one of the most lucrative times. The churches would also do well to recognize the changing of the times. The great popularity of open air meetings, whether they be drive-in theatres or open air band concerts, ball games, etc., might well give a head which would do much to popularize church services. —Owen Sound Sun-Times.

There's something definitely revolting about the sentencing of a 15-year-old boy to two years in penitentiary, particularly in the humanitarian province of Alberta and in the enlightened year of 1951. The boy was on a two-year suspended sentence for a previous car theft, and that ruled out all consideration of leniency, in the opinion of the Edmonton magistrate. The sentence couldn't even be served in the corrective institution at Bowden, because it is for first offenders only. The Bowden institution will serve a definite need in Alberta, but there should be some place other than the regular or the penitentiary for the detention of boys who don't

The Age-Old Story

Now it came to pass on a certain day, that he went into a ship with his disciples; and he said unto them: Let us go over unto the other side of the lake. And they launched forth. But as they sailed he fell asleep; and there came down a storm of wind on the lake; and they were filled with water, and were in jeopardy. And they came to him, and awoke him, saying, Master, master, we perish. Then he arose, and rebuked the wind and the raging of the water; and they ceased, and there was a calm. And he said unto them, Where is your faith? and they being afraid, wondered, saying one to another, What manner of man is this! for he commandeth even the winds and water, and they obey him. —H. R. Stewart in the Montreal Gazette.

The Poet's Corner

GREAT WATERS St. Lawrence—broad highway. The ramparts of your hills, Stood guard when men first came And humbly knelt in prayer. Explorers, men of God, Soldiers and fishermen, Voyaged along your shores, To make this land their home. Your soft blue horizons, Your overhanging scene, Lend to you sweet grandeur, And far flung majesty. —H. R. Stewart in the Montreal Gazette.

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