

THE GUARDIAN

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CHARLOTTETOWN TUESDAY, OCTOBER 13, 1953

The Spread in Food Prices

It is noteworthy that while the general cost-of-living index in Canada rose less than two points in the past four months, the food sub-index has risen nearly four points—from 110.1 to 114. At this rate, it could soon approach the postwar peak of 122.5, reached in November, 1951. But however much more consumers may be paying for food, the farmers are getting little benefit from it. The farm price index is at its lowest point in five years, and 15 per cent below the high mark of July, 1951.

There is no mystery about this, comments the Globe and Mail. Precisely the same thing is happening in the United States, where although farmers are getting substantially less for what they produce, housewives are paying substantially more for it. The trouble is that the cost of hauling and processing and distributing food is steadily going up; and that this increase more than cancels out any decrease in the cost of the food itself. Much of it is due to wage increases obtained without regard to productivity or ability to pay, and which therefore are passed straight along to the consumer.

"It is ironic," says our Toronto contemporary, "that these price increases should take place at a time when food surpluses are stacking up in North America. Take, for example, the dispatch from Ottawa which reported and explained the latest jump in the cost-of-living index. 'During August,' it said, 'the price of many food items climbed, including pork, eggs, coffee, lard, bread and butter'.

"Why did the price of bread rise in a month when Canada found herself clogged with close to a billion bushels of wheat, which she is going to have a very difficult time selling? Why, with so much feed on hand, did the price of eggs rise? Why did the price of pork rise when the Canadian Government had fifty million pounds in storage, which it was—and still is—highly anxious to get rid of? Why did the price of butter rise in August? At the end of that month, dispatches from Ottawa reported that owing to the sharp increase in production this year (it will run about 310 million pounds against last year's 280 million), the Canadian Government might end up next spring with a mountain of butter on its hands. Right now, under its floor price program, it has a stockpile of some fifty million pounds—much of it left over from last year.

"Under these circumstances, food prices should be falling, not rising; and the hauling and handling costs which enter into those prices should be kept tightly in hand. It is no use thinking that Canada's agricultural industry can be supported by a domestic market willing to pay any price for what it produces. In the first place, the market is not large enough; and in the second place, as Government stockpiles show, there is a limit to what it can and will pay. We must get back to selling our food products overseas, at prices overseas consumers are willing to pay. We used to do that once—before the shortage complex and the managed economy. And the result was that Canadian consumers, too, got food at prices they could afford to pay."

British Report On Hanging

A British Royal Commission has been investigating the question of capital punishment and its report, recently published, has stirred up much interest. The British commissioners were not asked whether hanging should be abolished, for in 1948 the House of Lords had decided to retain it, over-ruling the House of Commons. They were asked whether the penalty should be limited or modified.

Their answer is that hanging is as good a method of execution as any, although the possibility of using lethal injections deserves further investigation. As to the scope of the law, they conclude that "a stage has been reached where there is little room for further limitation short of abolition."

The commissioners nevertheless find the law much too rigid. As a result, only a quarter of the convicted murderers are hanged. The Home Secretary reprieves about 45 per cent of those sentenced to death, functioning like a court of appeal, without having to give his reasons. "In these cases," the London Economist remarks, "the pronouncing of the death sentence is a farce."

An important reform recommended by the Royal Commission would make "mental deficiency" a plea in murder cases, and admit proof that the accused "was incapable of preventing himself" from acting as he did. By these changes, the 110-year-old McNaughten Rules would be adapted to the views of the British Medical Association. Their assumption that an accused person was "sane" if he "knew" the nature and wrongness of his act has sent to the gallows many who ought to have been given compassionate or scientific treatment. By a majority of 8 to 3, however, the commissioners would prefer to abrogate the rules and leave these cases to the juries.

In fact, the Commission would let juries determine sentence as well as verdict. It gave up trying to classify murderers or degrees of murder. But should juries have so much discretion? Some critics would rely on their common sense, while others fear that sentences would have no consistency. The Commission's opinion is that if the rigidity of the law cannot be eased in this way, abolition is the real issue.

Abolish the death penalty, then, The Economist urges. It is unmoved by the argument that hanging is a deterrent. On this point the Commission concedes that abolition might be expected to result in a temporary rise in crimes of violence. But it discovered little evidence that offenders were much affected by the prospect of the gallows.

Tea-Plucking Machine

A tea plucking machine has been introduced in Ceylon and has been successful, after experiments, in proving that it can harvest tea more efficiently and cheaply than human labour. Eventually, the female coolie with her wicker basket on her shoulders, a familiar figure in the tea plantations on the hill slopes in Ceylon and India, will vanish from the scene.

It had generally been considered that plucking tea was one branch of human labour that the machine could never invade. The need for gathering only the tender leaves and buds, and the arrangement of the bushes on the slopes, seemed to present an insuperable problem.

In an article in the monthly magazine Overseas, the new machine is favorably discussed. Apparently, the average pounds of leaf per coolie with hand picking was 9.7, as against 24.2 per machine. In addition, the machines do not bruise the leaves as the pluckers do. It is said that the leaf does not have such a good appearance as hand-picked tea, but those specialists, the tasters, whose opinion is the one that matters, do not notice any difference in flavour.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Columbus Day, U. S. A.

It was well known that a lot of money was made running whiskey into the United States during prohibition. How vast that trade was is indicated by a lawsuit now before the New York courts over ten per cent of one ring's profits. The claim is for \$22,500,000.

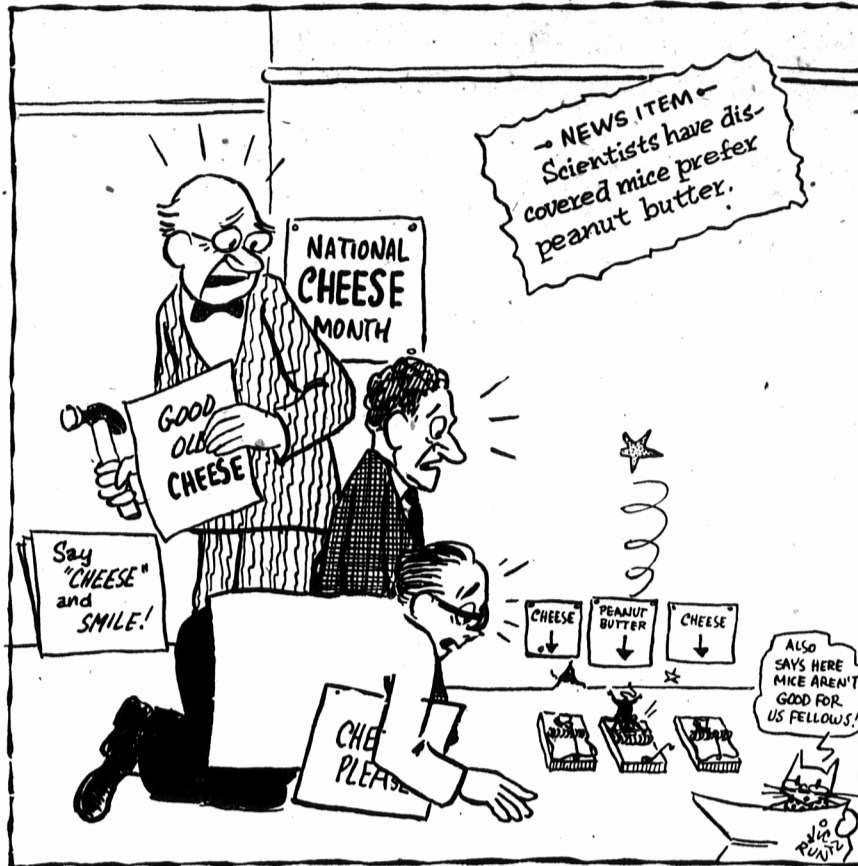
Royal Canadian Horse Artillery is the new designation for all field artillery regiments. It may be noted that an earlier distinction between horse artillery and field artillery was that in the former the artillerymen were all mounted whereas in the field artillery they had to walk or perhaps ride on the carriages.

Canada maintained four divisions in the First World War and eight in the Second. The formation of a division in peacetime will permit advanced training not possible with the smaller formations. The Canadian Army has come a long way since the days when the most important part of our defence force consisted of British regulars who fought beside militiamen who mustered one day a year.

There have been many changes in educational theory and practice in recent years and report cards will probably soon show the effects. In the cards long in use "deportment" held a very minor place with the real subjects on which the pupil was assessed. The superintendent of Charlotte-town schools observes that parents should be more concerned as to whether the child is co-operative, honest, a good citizen and has good health habits and attitudes.

Edith Louisa Cavell, nurse, died this date 1915. Daughter of a clergyman, she was educated in Somerset and in Brussels. She trained in the London Hospital and gained experience in many Hospitals in England. She established a school for nurses in Brussels and organized the hospital of St. Gilles. It became a Red Cross Hospital for both allied and German wounded. She was court martialed and shot by the Germans for helping 130 persons to escape from Belgium.

What Next Dept.



The Poet's Corner

PRELUDE Watch long enough, and you will see the leaf Fall from the bough. Without a sound it falls; And so you have A bare bough and a dead leaf in dead grass. Something has come and gone And that is all. But what were all the tumults in this action? What wars of atoms in the twig, what ruins, Fierce and disastrous, in the leaf? Timeless the tumult was, but gave no sigh. Only, the leaf fell, and the bough is bare. This is the world: there is no more than this. The unseen and portentous prelude, shaking The trivial act from the terrific action. Speak: and the ghosts of change, past and to come Through the brief word. The maelstrom has us all. —Conrad Aiken.

Old Charlottetown (And P. E. I.)

SUMMERSIDE IN 1864

"On entering the bay and harbor of Summerside, you are forced to exclaim, 'How pretty, how magnificent and rich and good, are the Creator's works!' The town lies before you to the left, for about a mile along the shore, and extending irregularly back a short distance. Twelve years ago it was nowhere; it then took a start in the race, came up to St. Eleanor's, Prince town and Georgetown, passed them, and left them far behind. On landing, the first sign, swinging out half-way across the bay, is 'Oyster Saloon', where they can had served up to you, oysters. During the summer months you don't ask for 'oysters' but for 'clams'. The streets are very narrow, and not well laid off. The houses and shops are, some good and some bad, and new ones are constantly going up, resting on cedar piles in place of stone, the buildings no stone to be had unless dug out of the sand at low tide. "For miles and miles the whole country around Summerside is a level as a bowling green, and beautiful both by nature and art, beyond description. The land is the best on the Island—a deep, loamy soil, no stones or sand to weary the farmer a poor return for his toil. The roads being sq level, and horses and carriages the finest, and everybody having a coach, everybody is constantly driving—English and Scotch from all parts; Irish from Southwest, and one lawyer and printer, and the Telegraph, and its people are active and enterprising. The Indians are numerous, strong and proud, and their squaws well dressed and pleased with themselves. An Indian, on a rainy day, has his umbrella like any other. Their Chief, John Sark, is a fine, respectable-looking man, about sixty years of age, medium height, dresses well in plain clothes, and wears a small cloth cap; he receives no pay, and sells porcupine boxes and other work for the support of himself and family; his conversation is slow and dignified, and he is usually accompanied by his 'aide-camp' John Dominick, a tall, swarthy Micmac, who stands silently a little behind, while his Chief speaks. The Chief has a daughter named Marguerite, and

Indialogue

By Gerald Steele 4th Year S.D.U. Student INDIA BOUND

About four months ago, India was to me a far-off land—of great interest certainly—yet separated not only by distance but by the thousand and one things which make it difficult to take any trip half way around the world. Now having been there, the feeling had been a newly-acquired friend—a friend ill with the trouble of the world, over-burdened with worries and responsibilities hovering as impending doom, misunderstood often and abused while desirous of being fair and meaning well, sometimes seeing things differently yet respecting the other point of view—but nevertheless an individual with a rich and winning personality, cultured and possessing qualities had only by the great. In short a person whom you love for what he is, respect for what he has accomplished and is yet attempting, with whom you sympathize for the breaks he did not get and the injustices received at the hands of others, to whom you owe gratitude for favors done you, and above all whom you are desirous of helping in every way possible and help put right in the eyes of men. India, to me, is that friend!

Such an acquaintance was made possible last summer when the World University Service enabled thirty-five Canadians and about 40 other students and professors from over the world, to gather with many Indian students to help meet one of the pressing needs of the day—a better understanding among people of the world and the unity in the university community. The Canadian Committee of this organization has organized and financed five Seminars such as that of last summer, that through discussion and living together, students of the world may come to a better understanding of their cultural backgrounds and their present-day problems. Organization and finance are always major difficulties with these projects, and in the case of the Indian Seminar two years were needed before it could become a reality.

With announcement of the Seminar in early spring, adventurous souls all across Canada were certainly stirred. Of course the student's responsibility as representatives of Canada and the West generally, was greatly stressed. Also difficulties of finance, losing the summer's work and the discomforts of a summer trip in India made all think twice before final commitment. Lists for readers two sons younger. He had come from Lennox Island, the headquarters of the tribe, in the hope of receiving from the Government a rifle."

The four-day stop in Paris provided a break, as well as, for some, an opportunity to see London and the Coronation. Naturally enough Paris was quite void of tourists at this time except for Londoners seeking relief from the turmoil of a bursting city. For four days we thrilled at the romance of the Champs-Élysées, Arc de Triomphe, Notre Dame, Tour Eiffel, Louvre, Ste. Chapelle and the many other jewels which make Paris one of the most wonderful of the cities of the world. Student travel in Europe is quite common so here we had the new and interesting experience of meeting groups from Germany, Switzerland and other parts of Europe. Also a meeting with the directors of UNESCO at its world headquarters in Paris provided first-hand information on the working of that group especially in India. Nearing departure time on the afternoon of June 4th, many already felt that should the trip

Notes By The Way

The character and life of the newspaperboy have gone through a remarkable evolution since the turn of the century. He has become modern with the times; his work of distributing and selling the daily newspapers has become systematized and businesslike. Gone is the old-time mental picture of a small boy, often an urchin, vending his papers haphazardly on the street corner. The newspaperboy of today is, in a very real sense, the proprietor of his own business enterprise—a young salesman who fulfills the responsibility of finding and serving regular customers, keeping his own accounts, and earning according to his initiative and ability. St. John Telegraph-Journal

In these troubled times, when there is so much bitterness and ugliness in the world, there is something wonderfully refreshing when an international effort is made to display the most beautiful of flowers. Montreal was fortunate to be the city chosen for the year's International Rose Show. Some 65 cities have already "booked" for the annual showings of the future. But this year, in the generous space provided in the store of T. Eaton Co. Limited, some 50,000 roses from 35 American states and several Canadian provinces were on display yesterday and will be on display again today. Much care and inventiveness have been used in making the displays as attractive as possible. And after the showing is over, volunteers of the Red Cross will distribute the roses to patients at the city's hospitals.—Montreal Gazette.

Scientific and engineering progress is as evident in the construction industry as anywhere else. Over the past few years that industry has been fairly revolutionized. But the revolution is far from over. Experts predict as drastic changes in the future as in the past. One of the newer developments which will rapidly extend down the whole industry is the use of glue instead of nails. Apparently there's a new kind of glue out which makes the joints in wood far stronger than the wood itself. This glue is completely resistant to all kinds of water, at any temperature, to solvents, oils and greases, and is not affected by extreme heat or cold. Before long, nails may be obsolete. —Calgary Albertan

Men over 45 living in Manchester or on Tyneside stand twice as much chance of dying of bronchitis next winter as men of the same age in London; and Londoners themselves are nearly twice as likely to die from bronchitis as those who live in the Southern English country-side. These shocking facts are brought out in a survey of bronchitis by Professor R. E. Lane, Miss Nancy Goodman, and Dr. S. B. Rampling, of the Nuffield department of occupational health in Manchester, published in the British Medical Journal in Lancashire and the Northwest chronic respiratory disease probably cause more ill health than any other condition; they are certainly responsible for most unemployment from sickness among the largest single disease group among registered disabled

end even now, the summer's experience would be considerable. No thinking of it! It was merely the first leg of the greatest experience of our lives. Shortly the European and North American delegates were aboard a chartered plane and we were India bound! (Note: The above article is the first of a series by Mr. Steele to appear once a week in The Guardian, describing his visit to India).

The Age Old Story

Because thou hast kept the word of my patience, I also will keep thee from the hour of temptation, which shall come upon all the world, to try them that dwell upon the earth. Behold, I come quickly; hold that fast which thou hast, that no man take thy crown.

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