

THE GUARDIAN

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"The Strongest Memory is Weaker Than the Weakest Ink."

CHARLOTTETOWN, FRIDAY, NOV. 3, 1950

George Bernard Shaw

In the passing of George Bernard Shaw the English-speaking world has lost its Grand Old Man of Literature. We were contemporary with many of the great Victorians, and since the death of Thomas Hardy was the sole survivor of that age of literary giants. But he was no extinct volcano. Though his productivity as a playwright decreased in late years, his mind remained perennially young. Time never dulled the sharp edge of his wit nor did it stay the lash of his biting criticism. He rejoiced in living, and one of his most famous comments on this subject may well serve for his epitaph: "I want," he said, "to be thoroughly used up when I die, for the harder I work the more I live. I rejoice in life for its own sake. Life is no brief candle to me. It is a sort of splendid torch which I have got hold of for the moment and I want to make it burn as brightly as possible before handing it on to future generations."

Shaw had his wish. He burned brightly to the end. Men came from far and near to light their torches at his splendid flame. Nor will they cease to do so while they continue to hate sham, to despise cruelty, to believe invincibly in progress and social betterment. These were the causes he championed, and about which he set so many pulses of creative thought vibrating in our time.

For true greatness in literature, however, other qualities are required. Shaw's place among the immortals has yet to be determined. As one critic has pointed out, he had a serious defect: he was not at his ease with the common man. He could laugh at him, he could even understand him,—but he rarely loved him. Men in lonely places or on a burdened road will not carry his epigrams in their heart for solace and inspiration as the poetry of Burns has rooted itself in the affections of mankind for so many generations.

A Lesson For India

In some ways the East, and particularly India, is further advanced than is Western civilization. It is certainly not so in the field of politics. Prime Minister Nehru's Government has been at pains to avoid antagonizing Russia and her Communist satellites, going so far as to oppose United Nations policies where they were aimed at blocking threats of aggression.

Now, with the prospect of Communist China as a neighbour instead of peaceful Tibet, India expresses surprise and regret at the Communist action. The West can take little credit for its superior wisdom. Britain, since 994, found on paying Danegeld that appeasement is a fatal policy. Yet as late as Munich the lesson had not been learned. It has now been very thoroughly absorbed, however, and would-be aggressors must know that their ambitions at the expense of Western interests will bring more blows than profit. India is learning rapidly just now and will probably prove as thorny a tit-bit as her fellows in the U. N.

Korean Vote In Retrospect

When Nazi aggression threatened mankind a decade ago, a grand alliance of democratic nations came into being and provided the bulwarks of freedom. Later, as the struggle neared its zenith, even sister totalitarian regimes were threatened by the Fascists and, by a strange accident of history, the free nations found themselves fighting side by side with the dark and sinister forces of the Soviet Union to halt the aggressor. The price of this strange partnership was a place for Russia within the framework of that grand alliance and a seat for the Soviet representative on the Security Council of the United Nations.

Mr. Herbert Hoover, former President of the United States, was roundly criticized last spring when he suggested that the United Nations might be better off without its Communist member states. The circumstances which led to successful UN intervention in Korea tend, however, to vindicate his view. For, while UN as a world force is impotent because of the danger of a Soviet veto in the Security Council, UN is a grand alliance of free nations is potent indeed in halting totalitarian aggression in such areas as Korea. The point of having been absent from the Security Council when the vote was taken on the Korean issue will not likely be lost on the Russians. It would, therefore, be folly to assume that UN attempts to check the Communists in Indo-China, to

settle the status of Formosa, and to deal with kindred problems, will meet with the same success as that which attended the Korean affair. For, once the veto is used by Russia's representative, UN is legally paralysed.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Fair Week begins at Amherst.

The Island can be justly proud of the response here to the mobile Blood Bank's appeal.

It is highly satisfactory to note that traffic at both Borden and Wood Islands ports is increasing.

Now that the Islanders have lost a hockey match, there should be greater interest than ever in watching the succeeding games.

The destroyer Crescent which is being re-commissioned and sails from Esquimaux Monday was the last word in destroyers at the close of the Second World War.

Russian oil prospectors are reported to have discovered 40 workable oil fields in Southwestern China. The chances are that if Russia could still draw upon American-trained oil engineers there would have been some, at least, in production.

It is reported that the findings of the Royal Commission on National Development in the Arts, Letters and Sciences will be published when Parliament meets, probably on February 14. It is safe to assume that it will give rise to far more discussion outside than within that venerable but vote-conscious body.

Other candidates besides Mr. J. J. Sullivan, Hamilton lawyer, for leadership of the Ontario Liberal Party are J. C. Brown, member of the Ontario Legislature for Waterloo North; Campbell Calder, member for London; Walter C. Thompson, Federal member for Ontario, and Controller Arnott Hicks of Hamilton. Dr. Harry M. Cassidy, University of Toronto professor, also is likely candidate.

G. B. S., now gathered to his fathers, was a political and literary enigma. He was a professed and pronounced socialist in all things almost except the production of one's brains. He favoured nationalization of such natural products as coal, steel, water, gas, oil, railways, shipping, etc., but when it came to copyright in books he called a halt, and opposed with his customary vigor the wiping out of copyrights in books and music. These he maintained, should remain the property of the authors and composers concerned, and their heirs.

The reference in these notes yesterday to a shortage of reefers was to the shortage of freight cars in the Maritimes. There is no shortage of refrigerator cars in Prince Edward Island. In fact the American Refrigerator Car Company which controls many of the reefers here, has been demanding their return empty rather than allow them to be detained without cargo. The Canadian National officials here have been holding on to them in the expectation that approaching frost will bring a sudden demand for these cars.

Admiral Benbow, British sailor, died this date 1702. He had an adventurous career in the Navy, and was sent by the Government to the West Indies to settle disputes with the Spaniards over the Darien settlement. The Darien scheme was a plan to colonize the Isthmus of Darien with Scotsmen, formed by William Patterson, founder of the Bank of England. As a result 1,200 colonists landed at Darien only to be met by the Spaniards in possession, and driven back to their vessels. They were short of provisions, disease broke out, and Benbow was sent to their assistance, but only a small remnant survived to return to Scotland. Later he was sent to fight the French in the West Indies, being killed in battle off St. Domingo.

The Ottawa Citizen probably represents Ottawa opinion correctly in stating that in recent years the view has been firmly established that the office of Governor-General should be filled by a Canadian. It is reported from Ottawa that there is to be a reorganization of the Federal Government. Does that imply that the Prime Minister will retire to be succeeded by Rt. Hon. C. D. Howe, the ablest member of his cabinet? It will be recalled that the late lamented W. L. Mackenzie King was slated to be the first Canadian-born Governor-General on Viscount Alexander's retirement. Recently, His Excellency's tenure has been given a year's extension which will carry him to 1952. By that time Mr. St. Laurent will have been sufficiently long out of active politics—in which, indeed, he has never been very active, to entitle him to become Canada's first native-born Governor-General.

Wrongtrack Seeks Ways And Means



INTRODUCING RUMNEY WRONGTRACK, ESO. A FAST MOVING YOUNG MAN, BUT UNFORTUNATELY NEVER IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION.

Say, how does a fellow get in on one of these popular gov't conferences in different parts of the world -- I have an aunt in the Canary Islands --

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.

DAIRY INDUSTRY'S FUTURE

Sir.—Now that the responsibility, duty, and authority in the problem of marine has been definitely placed in the door-steps of our ten Provincial Legislatures, the following basic data, as to the issues involved, seem to me to be added meaning? I quote from your feature-column "Among The Farmers" last summer: "Prediction that if there were no regulation whatever of butter substitutes in Canada, the butter industry would be practically wiped out in a short period of time, was made by Dr. E. C. Hope, economist of the Canadian Federation of Agriculture, in an address before the annual gathering of the Huron County Federation. . . . Only the limiting factors on those substitutes such as they are now, said Dr. Hope, prevented the total eclipse of the dairy industry in this country. . . . These limiting factors were removed, butter substitutes would be coming on the market at the rate of 200 million pounds a year. . . . Tens of thousands of valuable dairy cows would go to the packing plants. The future of our dairy industry, like most other farm crops, depends on farmers organizing—and staying organized." (Guardian, June 23).

The above speaker is right on the fact-beam in this reader's opinion. On the other hand, he doesn't finish the picture. I suggest it would be peculiar to have one or other of the farm editors, rural economists, or agriculture ministers, complete the above verbal scene and tell the man-in-the-street (in plain and lay language) some of the effects likely to flow from the destruction of the nation's dairying industry. It is clear, even to my inexperienced eyes, that cities and towns; that the ruin in this vital segment of the farming industry would be projected into related fields, such as the feed grains, livestock, etc., and that hundreds of thousands of city workers, who seldom dream of their link with Agriculture, would be "on relief."

Maybe this problem will be studied at the forthcoming Dominion-Provincial Agricultural Conference. I hope so, because it would be suicidal to have this nation-wide struggle broken up into ten provincial battlefields. That might suit certain special interests, but I'm thinking it would be enduring damage to agriculture. I am, Sir, etc.

"BUSINESSMAN"

Toronto, Nov. 1.

The Lord executeth righteousness and judgment for all that are oppressed. He hath not dealt with us after our sins; nor rewarded us according to our iniquities. . . . As far as the east is from the west, so far hath he removed our transgressions from us.

The Age-Old Story

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Notes By The Way

A Southern Alberta editor, just about to go to press, "pied" a couple of articles, one concerning an auction sale and the other a write-up of a wedding. He asked the office devil to get the two articles together and here's how he did it: "William Smith and Miss Lucy Anderson were disposed of at public auction at my barn one mile east of a beautiful cluster of roses, and two white calves, before a background of farm implements too numerous to mention in the presence of about 70 guests, including two milk cows six miles and a bog sled. Rev. Jackson tied the nuptial knot with 200 feet of responsible government. There is no doubt, however, that British Guiana will fall behind her neighbours in political progress unless reforms are introduced before very long. They have in any case been promised for 1952.

The commission's task will certainly not be easy, and here are recommendations which it makes will have to be accepted by diverse races. Nearly half the population are East Indians, the descendants of indentured labourers who came from India to take the place of the liberated slaves on the sugar estates. Nearly as large is the Negro element, and there are minorities of Europeans, "Coloured," and Chinese, not to speak of the indigenous Amerindians, for whom some special system of tutelage will be necessary, probably for several generations to come. Racial relations so far are good and there is a general consciousness of Guianese patriotism. That should help the commission, but it is equally true that these races are at different stages of development and that few organizations flourish except those founded on racial distinctions. The commission will have to decide whether it is better to try to ignore racial differences by extending elections on a common roll or whether some system of group representation, such as certain local leaders favour, is more practical. It will have to decide, too, the basis of the franchise with due regard to the different stages of development reached by each racial group. British Guiana is not the only territory with such problems. All colonial peoples of mixed racial composition face them in one form or another. The finding of a workable constitution by the commission just appointed, therefore, has more than local significance. It can be a signpost for the future of other and less mature communities: hay rope, and the bridal couple.

PROFESSIONAL CARDS

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