

THE GUARDIAN

Authorized as Second Class Mail Post Office Department, Ottawa. The Island Guardian Publishing Co. Editor and Managing Director, Ian A. Burnett. Associate Editor, Frank Walker. CIRCULATION "Covers Prince Edward Island like the dew" "The strongest memory is weaker than the weakest ink". CHARLOTTETOWN FRIDAY, JUNE 26, 1953

Brighter Classrooms—Brighter Scholars

Schoolrooms painted in bright colours produce better marks and, surprisingly, more so among young boys than girls, reports the Associated Press on the authority of psychologists of John Hopkins University. The greatest improvement was amongst kindergarten children.

The "colour dynamics" treatment called for painting of corridor walls in yellow with the doors and baseboards in palace grey. Rooms with a northern exposure were done in pastel rose; those facing south in blue and green. The front walls were done in a darker shade of the predominating colour in each room, reducing glare from that direction and focussing pupil attention towards the front. Slate boards were painted green instead of black.

The result of this colour scheme in place of the conventional light buff walls and white ceilings was an improvement of about 30 per cent amongst kindergarten children and more than 8 per cent for grades three through six. An unpainted school showed a drop of 2.7 per cent in the latter group's showing.

There is an inclination to treat such research as being academic and perhaps a waste of time but the real waste is in failing to make the most efficient use of time spent in school. Education is a costly matter for parents and taxpayer and it is well worth while to make use of methods which add to its effectiveness.

Arbitrary Age Limits Out

For some time rigid age limits for employment have been under criticism in this country as elsewhere. Now the Federal Government has done something about it and by Order-in-Council ruled that previously-prescribed age limits may be waived when qualified candidates within the limit are not available.

It has been an anomaly that while the Department of National Health and Welfare and the Department of Labour have been urging the employment of older workers, the Civil Service, until now, has compulsorily retired employees at 65 and has considered for hiring only those between 18 and 35 years of age.

There was a time when such restrictions were considered desirable in order to provide employment for those within the groups having most dependents and to permit their promotion within a reasonable time. In periods of expansion, however, such as we have seen for a number of years there is no question of waiting to fill dead men's shoes. The problem is to locate qualified personnel for the pressing tasks that await to be done.

It is right that retirement should be offered to those who wish it after they have served a given number of years. There are many to whom such pension provisions are an important inducement in taking one form of employment rather than another. For others retirement is something to be regarded with distaste. They feel that they are important in the posts to which they have devoted so much time learning to fill. They may have responsibilities which even generous pension provisions are not sufficient to enable them to fill. In any case it is only right that those qualified and willing to work should not be prohibited from doing so.

The Far East

In discussing at a recent Press conference developments that might follow a Korean armistice, Mr. John Foster Dulles, United States Secretary of State, intimated that the Administration was considering the widening of the anticipated political conference to embrace other Far Eastern problems. Such a procedure of course would be a reversal of the position taken by the Truman Administration.

When asked if the political conference would be related only to Korean issues, Mr. Dulles agreed that that was contemplated but that there was nothing definite at present. He added that the Truman policy of confining the conference to Korean matters is not confirmed by the present Administration.

Mr. Dulles later inferred that the question of the Indo-China war might be placed on the agenda of the political conference and he recalled that President Eisenhower and former French Premier Rene Mayer

had warned of the grave consequences that would flow from Communist action in using a truce to launch aggressive war elsewhere, meaning Indo-China.

Mr. Dulles did not elaborate, although it was recalled that President Eisenhower, in his state of the union message, said that "any military solution to the Korean war will inevitably affect" not only Korea but the wars in Indo-China and Malaya and the strategic situation that manifestly embraces Formosa.

Still Maritimers

A question which is bothering a goodly number of citizens down by the sea who readily accept such inelegant but descriptive names as Herring Chokers, Bluenoses and Spud Islanders, says the Fredericton Gleaner, is whether or not they will also continue to be known as Maritimers. The coming of Newfoundland into Confederation and its subsequent closer liaison with the mainland in all matters, is rapidly bringing the whole matter to a head.

Apparently some people have the idea that Newfoundlanders don't like to be known as Maritimers. As a result the word "Maritime" where formerly used in connection with organizations and societies representing New Brunswick, Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island, is gradually falling into disuse where Newfoundland is now represented and the word "Atlantic" is being substituted.

"Frankly," says The Gleaner, "we don't like the trend in the slightest and we just can't imagine there being any great body of opinion in Newfoundland which would object to being included as one of the Maritime Provinces. To be able to say that one is from the Maritimes is a proud boast. Maritimers are Canadians with just a little bit extra. Even Central Canadians will admit that under pressure. If the trend continues are we one day to be known as Atlanticians or some such outlandish name? Perish the thought!"

EDITORIAL NOTES

Students are busy writing Grade X, XI and XII and Prince of Wales matriculation at the various centres. Uniformity is the aim but for this year at least has not been achieved.

George Morland, English painter, was born this date 1763. There is a remarkable contrast between his own irresponsible life and his artistic achievement. Pressing debts seem to have been the incentive for much of his greatest work which depicts the mellow aspects of domestic and rustic life. In his animal studies the man-about-town rivals Landseer.

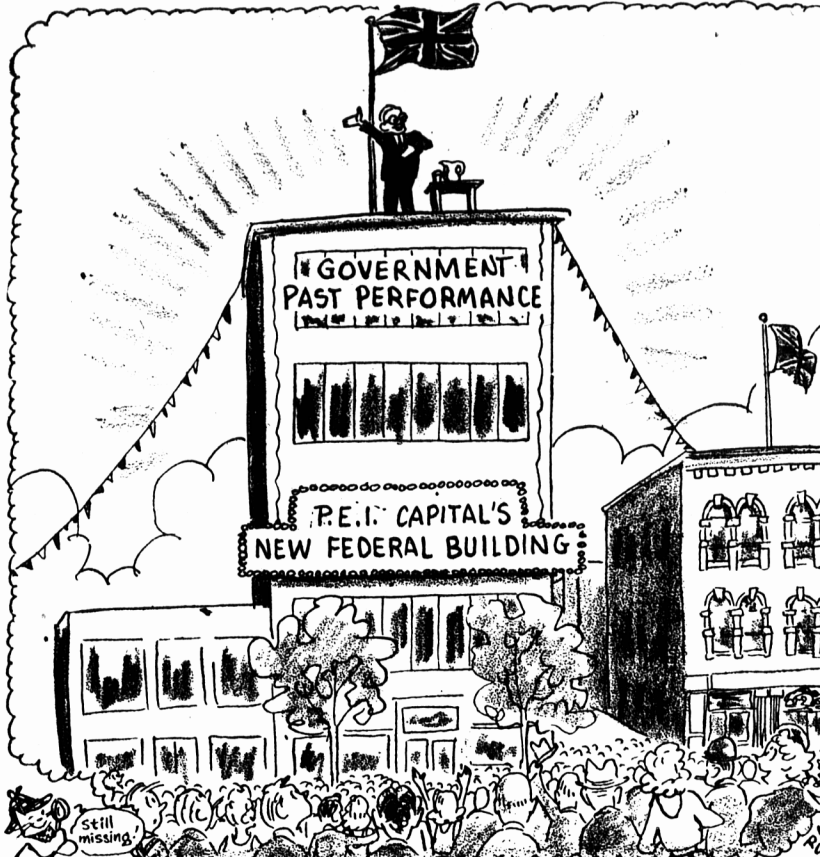
Alcohol and road traffic combine to form one of the great problems of modern life. A second international conference to study the questions involved has been called to meet in Toronto in September. Legislation, education, enforcement and administration are various approaches which will be considered by medical, legal, safety, insurance and law enforcement experts.

The extensive practice of outside buyers purchasing lobsters from the fishermen is causing grave concern to local packers who have difficulty keeping their factories in operation when lobsters are in short supply. It is not a matter which can be dealt with by regulation. Fishermen, however, by loyalty to local enterprise can help to assure continuance of a local market for their landings and employment for their neighbors.

Summerside has reason to be pleased at the change in Prime Minister St. Laurent's change of schedule which will enable him to open the new raceway the afternoon of Dominion Day after his appearance in Charlottetown. Both Mr. George Drew and Mr. M. J. Coldwell will be on the Island during sittings of the Board of Transport Commissioners in Charlottetown. The C.C.F. leader being in Summerside on July 14th and the Progressive Conservative chief to be in Charlottetown the following day.

The United States Congress, notes the Globe and Mail, has at least left the door open for a few new trade pacts by extending the President's power to negotiate reciprocal agreements, under limitations. These limitations already had been extended beyond their statutory scope by the Administration's promise not to make any large-scale changes in the trade pattern. Nevertheless, the House made it a condition of granting a one-year extension that an additional Republican protectionist be appointed to the United States Tariff Board, which now becomes a definitely high tariff body by the frank admissions of its own majority.

The Platform That Might Have Been



The Poet's Corner

RUSY CHILD Bending without bones, you chatter at small stones, crouch suddenly to sass the cricket in the grass. climb the low apple tree, climb restless over me, to dandelions descend, as swiftly reascend. to reach for stars. Your glissade as active as your wriggle, you murmur, "Soul-to-keep," and tumble into sleep. —Frances Frost, in New York Herald-Tribune.

The Gorillas Of Uganda

Edmonton Journal Strange doings have been noted amongst the giant gorillas of Uganda in East Africa, and the Geographical Journal of London has recently reported at some length on this fascinating subject. To begin with, the six-foot-tall monsters seem to be changing their diet. For all their awesome size and fierce appearance and in spite of their residence in British territory, gorillas are no beefeaters. They are accustomed, indeed, to a vegetarian diet and may be found from time to time, if one cares to approach that close, hamlessly munching celery and bamboo shoots. But they are now varying the monotonous with the occasional golden vole, a tiny field mouse which has the misfortune to share the landscape with them. This hardly makes them "carnivorous", as the zoologists would put it, nor is there anything very frightening about the picture of a 500-pound gorilla pouncing delightedly upon a four-ounce mouse. Nevertheless, the experts consider it highly unusual.

Another strange development is that they are quitting their normal habitat amidst giant forest trees and wandering up into the snow-covered heights of the eastern Ruwenzori Mountains. This is a volcano-studded range called the Berungu, or "swimming mountain" from which the gorillas have gained the name Berungu. A recent visitor to the range reported: "In mid-March, in a storm at the summit of 13,400-foot-high Mount Muhavura, in the fleeting snow which flecked their dark brown backs, moving semi-erect and leaning their hands upon the rocks, nine of these formidable anthropoids seemed to me to be "abominable snow men". Indeed, the reference to semi-erect posture is significant. It has been found that the animals have developed a set of muscles enabling them to stand upright, according to the Geographical Journal.

They also are becoming more inventive. In the forest, they use young bamboos—doubtless torn down gently by hand—to make a sort of "spring mattress", on which they rest and where they huddle during storms. Now, as they move up to the snowy heights they are carrying bamboos with them, to make camp on the way. All this seems to speak, tentatively, of evolution in the making, and a close watch on the Berungu—with a telescope, we suppose—will likely be maintained henceforth.

Incidentally, all this offers no solution to the mystery of Mount Everest's "abominable snow man". There are no gorillas in the Himalayas—so far as anyone knows. We await with interest the British expedition's report, if any, on this mystery.

ANCIENT DECORATION Beads are among the most ancient decorations on record, used by the early Egyptians and Phoenicians.

The Age Old Story

You are my witness, saith the Lord, and my servant whom I have chosen: that ye may know and believe me, and understand that I am he; before me there was no God formed, neither shall there be after me. . . . I am the Lord, your Holy One, the creator of Israel, your King. . . . This people have I formed for myself, they shall shew forth my praise.

Linguistic Agility

(Christian Science Monitor) What happens to an idea when it wanders from language to language? Experts at the laboratories of the National Research Council of Canada wanted to find out, so they set up a simple experiment. Their interest was aroused by Prof. A. E. van Arkel, head of the inorganic chemistry department of Leiden University in the Netherlands, who was visiting their laboratories. Professor van Arkel suggested that they pick a fairly simple text from the scientific literature and run it through several translations to see what would happen to it.

Part of an article written in English was selected for the experiment. This was translated from English into Dutch by one man, from Dutch into English by another, from English into French by a third, from French into German by a fourth, and finally from German back into English by a fifth. Translators were allowed the use of a dictionary and could explain the article to the next translator, but only in the language in which the article was written at the moment.

The result? "Only one important error occurred in the sense" they report, and "in the translation of the concluding sentence an observation of the original author was scribbled in the authors' quoted in the preceding sentence." This linguistic agility is characteristic of natural scientists who switch from English to French in their daily work and think nothing of it. It recalls a remark made by a famous astronomer who was taken back because he could not read Russian scientific papers. "What is the point," his poor astronomer to do when he can only speak English, French, Czech, Italian, German, and Dutch?"

Old Charlottetown

(And P. E. L.) THE TYRON ROAD From a petition presented to the Legislative Assembly, March 17, 1934: "The summer road from Charlottetown to Tryon, being carried over some very high and nearly inaccessible hills, presents a serious obstacle to the petitioners in conveying their surplus produce to market, whereby they are curtailed in the enjoyment of a fair competition with their brother farmers, who are more favorably circumstanced than themselves in this respect."

Some authorities have estimated that there were a million or more Indians when the white men first invaded this continent. The number dropped until it seemed as though the native races would eventually disappear. Now the trend has been reversed. There are nearly 400,000 Indians on federal reservations and the excess

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Notes By The Way

Greenland, Denmark's only colony, may become a new province of the mother country under a bill now before the Danish Parliament. The world's largest and one of its coldest islands was home to many Americans in World War II when the North Atlantic outpost served as a vital aircraft ferry point and fueling stop. United States troops built and manned weather stations which later were turned over to the Danish government, says the National Geographic Society. Last year a huge new air base was erected at Thule far up on the northwest coast, only 930 miles from the North Pole. The project was sponsored jointly by the United States and Denmark under the North Atlantic Treaty. More recently, the Scandinavian Airline System began experimental flights between Charlottetown and Copenhagen via Thule and the "top of the world."—Halifax Chronicle-Herald.

Mr. Leroy (Satchel) Paige is not among those present at the annual convention of the Canadian Dietetic Association here this week; he is too busy attending his professional duties as a reliever for the St. Louis Browns. Mr. Paige has his own ideas on diet, and these are included in his list of rules for staying perennially young which were recently published in Collier's magazine. They are: "Avoid fried meats, which angry up the blood. If your stomach disputes you, lie down and pacify it with cool thoughts." Whatever the dietary experts may think of the indestructible Satchel's advice, they don't seem to hold high opinions of some of the theories on eating which enjoy a current vogue. Dr. E. Neige Todhunter from the University of Alabama, for example, casts doubts on many popular notions of fattening foods. In her view, there is no sure-fire formula for reducing weight and maintaining health at the same time. —Ottawa Citizen.

A new sea monster has been sighted, this one about 50 miles off the coast of southern California. A fishing skipper declares in an affidavit to the Coast Guard that he and his nine-man crew saw a monster as big as a submarine with a neck 10 feet long and 6 feet thick and cone-shaped eyes a foot in diameter. Gigantic squid 50 feet long with great serpentine arms would be a sight to see. And the whale shark described in detail by Thor Heyerdahl as viewed at close range from the raft Kon-Tiki is certainly fearsome enough. Some how we hope this latest monster prowl is no kin to these now almost prosaic species and varieties. So much has been discovered it's lots more fun for even the armchair explorer to dream of the unknown. —Christian Science Monitor.

Last year about this time the psychologists were telling people that it's good for them to blow their tops once in a while. Now a New York psychiatrist is saying the reason a lot of men are fat is because they are mad at something. Somebody is shattering the old belief every day, it seems. We always thought we should be careful about losing our temper. Now we learn it is good for us. We always thought fat men were loved and even had a remote consoling aspect, when the middle showed signs of obesity. Now it is suggested to us that the fat man is fat because he has a disagreeable disposition. The psychiatrist explains it by pointing out that men take out their hostility and unresolved aggressions by stacking food. And food makes them fat. St. John Telegraph Journal.

"In a normal year," says a spokesman for the United Airlines, "the turnover of airline hostesses is among the highest for any group in industry." Last year, airlines estimated that one-third of their girls had to be replaced. Main reason? A rule that hostesses cannot fly if they are married, and lots get married. "We don't regard it as a problem anymore," explains another airline official. "It's the price we pay for hiring intelligent and attractive young women."—Wall Street Journal.

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