THE GUARDIAN

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"The strongest memory is weaker than the weakest ink."

MONDAY, SEPT. 12, 1955

Island Products Week

It is a happy coincidence that with the annual meetings of the Maritime Provinces Board of Trade in Charlottetown this week, the importance of local enterprise in processing and canning Island-grown products is being highlighted in a campaign sponsored by our Junior Board of Trade. It is customary, in stressing the importance of our agriculture and fisheries, to forget that we are also progressing industrially so far as these prime industries are concerned. Today we have fifty-five canneries in addition to dairying, filleting, freezing and other plants handling Island products, and these industries are deserving of every support. Many of them are exporting to other Provinces and are establishing an enviable reputation on a quality basis. If our own Island people would patronize these industries more, talk more about them and bring their activities to the attention of visitors, it would be an incentive to further enterprise and pay rich dividends to our producers in stabilizing prices and expanding their markets.

Some idea of the quality and variety of our Island processed foods will be given in the central display which is being arranged for this week in the lobby of the Charlottetown Hotel. The display will be shown in connection with a Province-wide publicity campaign. The visiting members of the Maritimes Board of Trade will be presented with samples of some of our leading products, and other means will be taken to emphasize this important phase of Island industrial activities.

The Junior Board of Trade is to be commended on its initiative in launching this campaign, and our producers and government officials in cooperating to make it a success.

Cat Legislation

Among all the strange and courageous things that have been attempted by town councils, an ordinance recently enacted by Westbury, N. Y. must surely be given high place. It calls for a curfew for cats. On and after a certain date it will be unlawful for any member of the feline community to be at large after 10 p. m. Even a single meow after that hour will be enough to put the offender behind bars—provided, of course, it can be apprehended. The cat's guardian will be fined so much, depending on the gravity of the offence.

Unless the Westbury cats are a lot different from the average specimen—if one may use that term without conveying any disrespect—the civic authorities of that town are going to have trouble on their hands, and plenty of it; and it will come as no surprise to hear that the members of the police force have resigned in a body. For if there is one animal above all others that is not amenable to regimentation, that animal is the cat. Indeed, it is that streak of obstinate independence that makes it the charming animal it is. Come to think of it, who ever heard of a cat that would obey an order? It can be led—provided the leading does not interfere with its own plans—but it can never be driven. This is the case even indoors, where some measure of human discipline might be expected to have at least a token influence for good, even though it might signify nothing more than condescension on the cat's part; but outdoors it is doubly so, for there the cat lives and moves in an aura of complete mastery and of utter indifference to any will but its own. "I am master of all I survey, my right there is none to dispute"; that is the great feline slogan, and it was so long ages before William Cowper, Daniel Defoe, Robinson Crusoe or Alexander Selkirk was heard of. It is a sheer waste of time for a policeman to argue about it; and the Westbury town fathers may as well get it into their heads now as later that their feline citizens will wander when and where and how they will, curfew or no curfew.

The Scientists Disagree

Meetings of nuclear experts are so common these days that very little attention is paid to them ordinarily. There is still plenty of mystery attached to their particular jargon, but it has not the fascination for the layman that it once had. Repetition has dulled wonderment. A recent meeting of the British Association for the Advancement of Science, however, is of special interest because it revealed unusual disagreement among the physicists themselves on the question of the possible effects of nuclear reaction.

Sir Robert Robinson, president of the Association, wanted to know if there is 100% proof that the earth's atmosphere could not be set on fire by an uncontrollable hydrogen explosion. Even the tiniest fraction of a doubt, he declared, might conceivably result in the destruction of the world. He seemed to think that that fraction exists, despite all the precautions that have been instituted by the scientists. Other members of the Association ridiculed the suggestion. "We know of no physical process whatever," said one of their number, "from which an uncontrolled chain reaction could possibly emerge." They may not know of any; but, as Sir Robert pointed out, that is not proof that none exists. And until the entire scientific community is certain that the danger is out of the question and can prove it by irrefutable evidence beyond the smallest fraction of a doubt, public confusion on the subject will continue to grow. Come to think of it, no expert or group of experts has yet put forward any compelling reason for continuing experiments in hydrogen explosions on an ever increasing scale.

EDITORIAL NOTES

At last the scientific researchers have got around to the lead pencil. A seven inch one, they report, can write exactly 45,000 words. It can be sharpened 17 times.

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An astronomer has announced that, according to his calculations, the universe is expanding only one-third as fast as was thought four years ago. He added, however, that it will be ten or twelve years before he will be able to make exact measurements. In the meantime we shall have to try and get along without that bit of important knowledge.

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There is one picture of himself that Donald Cameron, a Maine fishery guide, is going to prize very highly, whether it looks like him or not. It was painted and presented by President Eisenhower whom Mr Cameron guided on a fishing trip this summer. The President not only painted it but framed it.

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Here's one car driver, the only one we have heard of so far, who didn't blame the other fellow for the accident. Appearing in a New York court after his car ran into a milk truck, George Gulyas told the judge: "You see I've only one good eye—no vision at all in my right. And besides, I'm not a very good driver anyway."

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According to a report from the Food and Agriculture Organization there is more meat in the world now than at any time since 1945. 1954 production was up 16% in 23 countries compared with the first postwar year. The supplies include beef, veal, pork, mutton, and goat. The biggest gain has been in Western Europe, 25% more than at the end of the war.

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Every three hours of the day, notes an exchange, one Canadian dies in a traffic accident. Traffic fatalities in Canada have climbed steadily since the war. There were 1,663 traffic deaths in 1946; 1,759 in 1947; 1,976 in 1948; 2,276 in 1949; 2,270 in 1950; 2,412 in 1951; 2,701 in 1952; 2,906 in 1953; 2,967 in 1954. The postwar traffic death toll exceeds the number of Canadians killed in all the land battles in which Canadian troops fought in the 1939-45 war and in the Korean conflict. And that doesn't take into account the thousands of persons injured in the post-war accidents or the hundreds of millions of dollars in property damage.

It Figures

OTTAWA REPORT

Profitable B. C. Investment

By Patrick Nicholson

Ottawa: Some newspapers have recently been pouring praise on Ray Lawson, Canada's Consul-General in New York City, for his energy and imagination in launching the project to build the privately-financed Canada House in New York.

Ontario's former Lieutenant-Governor is the father of this idea. But he may well have stolen the idea, in an even better form, from British Columbia.

Further afield than New York, and with its very real light hidden modestly under a bushel, is a British Columbia project which knocks this Ontarian's plan into the proverbial cocked hat. This is British Columbia House. In London England.

That well known address, No. 1 Regent Street, costs its province not one nickel. The expenses of the salaries of the Agent-General for British Columbia and all his staff, their office expenses, and even their official entertaining are, I am told, all fully paid for out of the rents of the 70 other offices contained in British Columbia House. Canada House has no such grandiose ambition to save the taxpayers' pocket.

THE OLD (MAC)ADAM

The Agent-General, Mr W.A. Mc Adam, completed last month what is probably a record. He has now held that post for 21 years, after being official secretary in the same department for 11 years.

It looks as if he will be playing host to a record number of visitors from B.C. this year, as the record flow of Canadian tourists to Britain should easily break the 2,000 mark previously reported by B.C.

Mr. McAdam says he would like to see touring made easy in the reverse direction. He wants as many British tourists as possible to visit British Columbia in 1958, when his province will be celebrating the centenary of its foundation as a Crown Colony.

HONORARY STIGMA

The Ontario Government's intention to print the reinstated licences of convicted drunk drivers on red paper will certainly stigmatize thm, This move has been weicomed as "an effective way to deal with the driver who doesn't drive safely," says the chairman of the Canadian Highway Safety Conference, Mr. Brooke Claxton, the retired Liberal Cabinet Minister.

In line with honored custom, it was suggested that the first of the new red licences should be issued complimentarily to Mr. Brooke "Road Safety" Claxton himself. On sober second thought, it was realized that this gesture might not be an unalloyed compliment. So if Mr. Claxton is to get a red license he will have to earn it himself the hard (liquor) way.

THE COST OF DEFEAT

It is said that there is no winner in a modern war. The Americans are learning that it is costly to have been a loser in an old war. One of the incidental expenses of building the St. Lawrence Seaway has an unintended angle which twists the dagger in an old wound.

Canada and the United States will share equally the cost of rehabilitation made necessary by the raising of the river level along the International Rapids section of the St. Lawrence, west of Cornwall, Ontario.

Amongst the populations to be rehoused, the buildings to be moved, and the amenities to be relocated, there is an old memorial commemorating the victory of Canadian troops over American troops at the Battle of Crysler's Farm in 1812.

Half the cost of moving and rebuilding this enduring record of their defeats will fall upon the American taxpayers.

FACT OR FANCY?

A carrier pigeon flapping its humid way from Parliament Building to the telegraph office paused to rest awhile on a well-leafed maple tree.

Soon it was joined by another equally exhausted pigeon flying the same route. They tweeted together briefly.

"Well I must flutter along," said the first. "I am carrying an important message about so-and-so's intention to resign from the Cabinet."

"No need to hurry," comforted the second pigeon. "I'm carrying an official denial of it from the Prime Minister's office."

The Poet's Corner

The chicks were yellow as puff-ball suns
Fallen out of a summer sky,
But the farm-wife viewed the shining ones
With a cold and disapproving eye.

For a hen that braves the hawk and owl
To steal her nest in a line-fence nook
Is written off as a witless fowl
In any proper farm-wife's book

But one might doubt if it mattered much
To the little hen, was she praised or not
For she had hidden and hatched her clutch
Where secret quail and partridge go.

Her night was a stillness pricked by small
Uncertain rustlings, warily heard;
And morning came with a plover's call—
To her as to any wilding bird.

She came as lightly as water runs,
Home from her covert, stepping high—
With round gold chicks like puff-ball suns
Fallen out of a summer sky.

—Silence Buck Bellows.

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.

GLEN VALLEY ROAD

Sir,—On opening your paper on the morning of Sept. 7 I came across a letter headed "No Place To Go" which was signed "Truthful Tory" from Fredericton, R.R. He tries to explain about the so-called cow path from Fredericton to Glen Valley. In the first place it is used more as a cow path in the summer time, while in the winter our Truthful Tory can't get anywhere because of the snowdrifts; so while he and his Liberal neighbours relax by the fire, in a nice warm room, the mailman breaks the road all by himself to bring them their mail as well as their groceries and tobacco.

If Mr. Large and Mr. Stewart would just close the cow-path and then follow the course on by the "1 percent" Liberal committee man's property it would serve more taxpayers and our mailman would have an improved road to travel over at all times. Our "Truthful Tory" could then join it a short distance from his own gateway and perhaps when "Reg" gains power he could have his lane bulldozed, too, like his Liberal friend across the field.

"Truthful Tory" tells us that the last election was compared to a steamroller running the Conservatives down, I wonder where our "Truthful Tory" was at that time, or has it taken him the last six months to get dug out from under the snow or maybe from under the Liberal ballots.

I am, Sir, etc.,
CROOKED LIBERAL

ASSAULTS NEW BRIDE

GUELPH, Ont. (CP) — James Leeder, 17, was sentenced to six months in jail Friday for assaulting his bride of three weeks. Leeder's mother-in-law said he kept his wife in her nightdress all day to prevent her seeing her mother. Magistrate Frederic Watt called Leeder a "coward" and said he regretted he couldn't order the lash.

Medically Speaking

DON'T THINK OF SURGERY AS A DREADED ORDEAL

To many of you, an operation is a frightening and dreaded ordeal. While no one looks forward to surgery, you should not build up needless fears.

Probably your main concern is about being anesthetized. You're afraid you will go to sleep and not wake up. Perhaps a discussion about anesthesia and just how safe it actually is will help you ease your fears.

In one form or another we have had anesthesia since the dawn of history. The ancient Incas deadened surgical pain with coca leaves and by dripping cocaine-rich saliva on wounds. Assyrian and Egyptian surgeons compressed the carotid blood vessels in the neck of a patient to produce short-lived artificial sleep. Modern methods are much better.

The most widely employed inhalation anesthetic today is used either alone or in combination with nitrous oxide. But there are others, including: ethylene, cyclopropane, divinyl ether (vinethene) and trichlorethylene (trilene).

INCREASINGLY POPULAR

Intravenous anesthesia has become increasingly popular and is currently used for more than one-fourth of all anesthesias. The most commonly employed agent is thiopental sodium. These anesthesias are far short of ideal, but surgeons have established an impressive safety record with their use.

A recent survey by the Harvard Medical School in ten leading university hospitals showed that the overall death rate was one death per 1,560 anesthesias during a five-year period. This record is even more remarkable when you realize that many patients are already desperately ill and near death when anesthetized.

When ether alone was used the death rate was only one for each 2,500 anesthesias. It was one per 5,300 anesthesias with cyclopropane and one per 14,600 with ethylene.

Sometimes, however, these extremely safe agents alone do not produce sufficient muscular relaxation for easy surgery. Then, a muscle-relaxing agent like curare, the South American arrow poison must be used along with the primary anesthetic drug. The danger is greater in such cases, but even so, the Harvard study showed one death for every 712 anesthesias.

And use of a new muscle-relaxer, viadril, promises even greater safety.

So you see, your chances of surviving any operation today are excellent.

QUESTION AND ANSWER

D. H.: What effect does candy or too many sweets have on the tonsils?

Answer: I know of no evidence that eating candy or too many sweets would have any adverse effect on the tonsils.

Of course, excessive sweets should be avoided to prevent interference with the appetite for other foods.

The Age Old Story

And he spake a parable unto them, saying, The ground of a certain rich man brought forth plentifully: and he thought within himself saying, What shall I do, because I have no room where to bestow my fruits? And he said, This will I do; I will pull down my barns, and build greater, and there will I bestow all my fruits and my goods.

But he knew their thoughts and said to the man which had the withered hand, Rise up, and stand forth in the midst. And he arose and stood forth. Then said Jesus unto them, I will ask you one thing: Is it lawful on the Sabbath days to do good, or to do evil? to save life, or to destroy it?

OLD INDUSTRY

After four centuries, cod is still the largest single catch on the Grand banks off the Atlantic coast.

FRUIT AREA

The Annapolis and Cornwallis valleys, fruit-growing centre of Nova Scotia, extend about 70 miles.

NOTES BY THE WAY

A further evidence of cultural exchange is to be found in a British Columbia company's plan to erect a vodka distillery on the West Coast. Establishment of loganberry wineries in Russia and Poland would be, no doubt, a suitable act of reciprocity.—Ottawa Citizen.

An efficiency expert claims that more and more women are being employed in banks because they are natural tellers. Well, some of them give a good account of themselves when it comes to figures. —Vancouver Herald.

Age, it would seem, is not a matter of years. We have known men who were old at thirty years others who were young at eighty. It's an individual proposition, as some business firms are beginning to realize. A man or woman who is physically and mentally fit to carry on his or her work should not be penalized because of the number of years he or she carries. For age gives a stability and farsighted approach to many problems in this world, which nothing else will give. Nothing will ever take the place of experience.—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

Without ever having seen the man, we've acquired a great liking and admiration for Col. Lee J. Davis, who commands the anti-aircraft defences in the Detroit area. Showing reporters over the new Nike sites, Col. Davis told them that "our defences are capable of destroying any airplane which can attack us today or in the next few years." We don't know whether this is so. But we're so eternally weary of hand-wringers, breast-beaters and all the other gloomy characters who go around yelling that we're pawns in the hands of atomic fate—and probably destined to be pretty unlucky ones, too—that when a man stands up and says, in effect that we can lick the bums any day in the week, we're all for him. —Detroit Free Press.

Many married women collect unemployment insurance they're not entitled to, asserts the Vancouver Province, which apparently doesn't mind stirring up a peck of trouble. The Vancouver comments are based on a recent brief by the Unemployment Insurance Commission, which Mrs. Fairclough, M.P. for Hamilton West, has described as "slanderous." The brief contends that many women who leave their jobs after marriage and claim benefits on the ground they are seeking employment, do not really intend to return to work.

"This contention is perfectly true," says the Vancouver newspaper. "The only women who don't do it are those who haven't thought of it, or have moral objections against it.—Sydney Post Record.

Figures show fatalities on the highways and in the water are far greater during the weekend days than during the working week days By the time we have reduced the working week to four or possibly three days we shall all be able to kill ourselves off even more rapidly.—Brockville Recorder and Times.

Don't think the new automobiles aren't causing the police trouble because they are, according to an article in a daily paper. In the old days the police radio could crackle out a crisp description such as: "Four men and three blondes in a blue Essex." Now they have to say: "Four men and three blondes in a baby blue Sufferomobile, the upper part of which is chartreuse and the lower part of which is pea green, with white side wall tires and sort of a russet tone to the rims, which may be caused by rust, but we forget to tell you that the middle part of the car is sunburst yellow."—Galt Reporter.

The military correspondent of The Times of London suggests that General Simonds may succeed Field Marshal Montgomery as deputy supreme commander of the Allied forces in Europe. While with the First Canadian Army during World War II, General Simonds gained experience in dealing with troops of various nationalities; he has also, since the war, had close relations with military commanders of the two major NATO powers, the United States and France. These qualifications could carry weight when the decision regarding Field Marshal Montgomery's successor is made.—Ottawa Citizen.

Again the cry is raised that there is a great shortage of teachers in Canada, and that too many who are teaching are either poorly qualified, or not even qualified at all. As one peruses the examination results of the classes in the press and notes the great number of subjects which students study the thought occurs that many of them are taught things that will be of little or no use to them in after life. Might not some contribution to the teacher problem be made by eliminating some of these subjects? —St. Thomas Times-Journal.

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