

THE GUARDIAN

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"The Strongest Memory is Weaker Than the Weakest Ink"

CHARLOTTETOWN, TUESDAY, JULY 24, 1951

A Tragic Figure

Marshal Petain's life might well have served as the subject of a Sophoclean tragedy. It had all the elements of pity and terror, of grandeur and debasement, such as we associate with some cataclysmic figure out of the pages of classic literature.

His death recalls the great service he performed at Verdun in the First World War, when he held out against eighty of Germany's mightiest divisions. His battle cry, "They shall not pass!" will go down along with his achievement in military history.

Truly a tragic figure, to be portrayed only by a great dramatic poet, with profound insight into the heart as well as knowledge of all the facts and circumstances. Shakespeare's lines from the closing scene of "King Lear" may well serve to end this inadequate comment:

"Vex not his ghost: O let him pass! He hates him That would upon the rack of this tough world stretch him out longer . . . The wonder is, he hath endured so long: He but usurped his life."

If The Peace Talks Succeed

Pending the resumption on Wednesday of armistice talks at Kaesong, officials of the United Nations, as well as in London and Washington, are maturing plans for the reconstruction of Korea.

The United Nations Korean Reconstruction agency, acting under a resolution of the General Assembly last fall, has been authorized to spend \$250 million in rehabilitation. Most of that money has already been pledged, with the United States raising the largest share.

If the peace talks succeed, this task of reconstruction will certainly be one of the major problems before the General Assembly which meets in Paris in November. Help, however, cannot wait until then.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Churchill hates the idea of Britain having to play second fiddle in world politics, and so say we all of us.

The re-shuffling of the Federal Cabinet is due in September, one of the consequences of the four by-election defeats.

About the only country to benefit from the Korean war is Spain, and Generalissimo Franco is not crowing very loudly about the quid pro quo.

At Lethbridge, Alberta, a new \$7,000,000 irrigation project has been completed. That should give us a fair yardstick by which to measure the value of one of our own natural resources — plentiful rainfall.

The flooding of Kansas and Missouri recalls very forcibly the Great Flood of Holy Scripture when so many factory centres of china, glass, painting, etc., were wiped out, including Ur of the Chaldees, where Abraham was born.

Window Tax was abolished in England this date 1851. Originally imposed in 1697 to make up the deficiency from clipped and defaced silver coinage, it was increased six times between 1747 and 1808 and reduced in 1823. Its effects are still visible in numerous bricked-up windows.

Russian papers have been quoting the opinion of an historian that there was no rational excuse for highly strained relations which have arisen between the two great Anglo-Saxon powers and the Soviet Union. Proper editing would at least have substituted non-Communist for "Anglo-Saxon."

It will be of interest to not a few who knew and admired Sir Charles Tupper that his desk as leader of the Conservative Party is still in the possession of the party, Mr. George Nowlan, president, having acquired it and had it installed in his office in Parliament. Sir Charles used it when he was Conservative Prime Minister in 1896, and had a separate lock and key for each iron-handled drawer.

In Quebec Maurice Duplessis as Attorney-General of the Province, will be asked by members of the Montreal Provision Trades Association to clarify the status of spreads or other products which may be used as substitutes for butter. Members declared that if the sale is permitted, standards of composition should be set to protect the consumer.

An inmate of Dorchester penitentiary (says the Telegraph Journal) has made a model yacht, sold it for \$30, and donated the proceeds to the Red Cross. This refreshing news goes to show that men convicted of breaking the law are not wholly bad. Even some of the worst offenders against the rules of society have better instincts. The prisoner who gave the profits of his craftsmanship, instead of saving the money for his own use, did more for charity in one simple gesture than many law-abiding people who wouldn't give a cent to save a soul.

Many old friends in this Province will regret to learn of the death of Major Fred F. May in British Columbia. Major May had a distinguished war record, and was a leading figure in the Canadian Legion in the early days of its existence here. He was keenly interested in preserving historic relics and in the agitation for establishment of a Provincial museum.

The C. C. F. Government of Saskatchewan is in the money-lending business, but not for profit. A total of \$120,185 from the government's student aid fund was loaned to 432 students in 1950-51. These figures were approximately the same as those for the previous two years.

Busy Here This Year



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.

RELIGIOUS & SECULAR

Sir—In 1910 Dr. John R. Mott, in his book "The Decisive Hour in Christian Missions," said: "If we do not send to the Japanese 10,000 missionaries, we will meet them later with 100,000 bayonets."

The hospitals we provide are too few and too crowded. Colleges are more than filled. Requests for more teachers have to be turned down. Up to now we may say that what we have done should have been a hundred times more.

There is no discharge in this warfare for a Christian world. For, when the Church ceases to be missionary, it is no longer Christian. And as far as the rank and file are concerned, we are becoming more materialistic and less God conscious.

The same would apply to Canada. Moses was called from the herding of cattle to lead an army out of Egypt. So to my mind there is a man, called from the ranks of high finance, in the person of Paul Hoffman, who under the Marshall Plan of dollars, is destined to lead his country and, let us hope, all the free countries in a campaign to offset Communism. Hoffman's crusade is bloodless. It is simply gathering up the underbrush in the war-torn countries that would make feed for Communist propaganda, as a fire feeds on what is inflammable; taking care of hunger, disease, lying propaganda, illiteracy, ignorance, fear, hatred, disaffection in labor, and putting in their place, capital to start wheels turning and land producing, courage, hope, health, information, cooperation, a chance for students to come to America.

The Poet's Corner

ETERNAL SEASON While hot winds keep gray clouds of dust swirl And garden blossoms wither in the sun, Within the florist shop the buds uncurl Their petals, lifting proudly one by one. Red roses glow like flame in bold relief. A foil for iris blooms of every hue. Forsythia holds up a yellow sheaf Near violets of Heaven-borrowed blue. Though leaves are brown with rust and birds have flown Or if the earth is looking for the spring, Here evanescent seasons are unknown— The pendulum of time has ceased to swing. And here encompassed by stout roof and wall, Eternal summer lives though snow may fall. —Inez Clark Thorson in The New York Times.

Old Charlottetown

(And P. E. I.) ANNEXING THE MAGDALENS

This Island appears at one time to have been on the eve of annexing the Magdalen Islands. The following editorial on the subject is from the Colonial Herald of June 13, 1940:

MORELL CEMETERIES

Sir,—It seems to me I read something a short time ago with regard to a movement to restore old burying places to more respect-able looking grounds. Travelling through the country and seeing many cemeteries and knowing of others that are hidden from the searching eyes of lovers of beauty, I turn back to home.

Home, a little place in this village where with a wife and family we spend the summer months. The Catholic cemeteries are only a stones' throw away, the one at the Church of the Little Flower where my own mother rests along with other dear ones. I can gaze at the beauty of this well-kept sacred burial grounds, nicely fenced around, the headstones in line, the grass well clipped and the entire cemetery so clean and lovely.

PERIL

On the sea, on land, in the air, peril of fire, lightning, falling aircraft, of automobiles, of accidents, of sickness. In our modern life we are surrounded by perils, and that is why we employ the system of insurance to protect us financially. We are in a position to provide a complete insurance service, and welcome your inquiries for advice and information. No obligation.

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The Age-Old Story

Now about that time Herod the king stretched forth his hands to vex certain of the church. . . Peter therefore was kept in prison: but prayer was made without ceasing of the church unto God for him. And when Herod would have brought him forth, the same night Peter was sleeping between two soldiers, bound with two chains; and the keeper before the door kept the prison. And, behold, the angel of the Lord came upon him, and a light shined in the prison: and he smote Peter on the side, and raised him up, saying, Arise up quickly. And his chains fell off from his hands. And the angel said unto him, Gird thyself, and bind on thy sandals. And so he did. And he saith unto him, Cast thy garments about thee, and follow me. And he went out, and followed him: and wist not that it was true, which was done by the angel: but thought he saw a vision. When they were past the first and the second ward, they came unto the iron gate that leadeth unto the city; which opened to them of his own accord: and they went out, and passed on through one street: and forthwith the angel departed from him. And when Peter was come to himself, he said, Now I know of a surety, that the Lord hath sent his angel, and hath delivered me out of the hand of Herod, and from all the expectation of the people of the Jews.

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Notes By The Way

At the University of Southern California they have a machine that can cut an inch of material into 5,000 slices, and in case you can't visualize what that means it's nearly as thin as the ham in a snack-bar sandwich. —(Ottawa Citizen.)

Slow driving on arterial highways is just as much a traffic menace as too speedy driving. Modern highways are built at great cost to move as many vehicles as possible, as safely as possible, with the least possible loss of time. Much of the construction cost is now wasted. Uniformity of speed is the best insurance against accident, and legislation that will enforce this uniformity is commendable and desirable. —(Vancouver Sun.)

A woman who was a fanatic about going to seances, took her little boy with her one day so that the lad might talk to his dear departed father. After the contact had been made by the medium, the son said with simple directness: "Where are you, Papa?" "In Heaven, son," came back an answering voice. "And are you an angel, Papa?" asked the boy. "Yes, my boy," came back the voice. "An angel with wings and a harp and everything?" "That's right." The boy stopped and considered a moment. "Say, Daddy," he continued eagerly, "tell me—what do you measure from tip to tip?" —(Ottawa Journal.)

In Toronto a boy of 17 ran away in an effort to escape when a constable put him under arrest. The constable opened fire and, says the Toronto Star, a bullet lodged in the lad's spine—he may be a cripple for life. The charge against him is attempted shop-breaking. Perhaps it is impossible to devise any rules about the use by policemen of their revolvers that could be followed in all circumstances, and nobody would argue very strongly that a constable should hold his fire if a convicted murderer were escaping from custody. But there is a

lency made on that occasion we have not seen, but we subsequently learned that in the original draft of the Canadian Bill, which was submitted to Parliament last year, a clause was introduced for disavowing the Magdalen Islands from Canada and annexing them, as well as the District of Gaspé, to the Government of New Brunswick. This subject was brought under the consideration of the Earl of Durham, by Sir Charles A. FitzRoy, during the visit of the latter to Quebec in 1838; and the views of His Excellency were followed up by the representations of the delegates from this Island, who, in the course of the same year, waited upon the Governor General, along with the deputations from the other Colonies. "On that occasion we understand that an effort was made by the deputies from Nova Scotia to induce His Lordship to recommend the annexation of those Islands to the Government of Nova Scotia. The same year in which this discussion took place, Sir Charles FitzRoy, at the particular request of the Earl of Durham, made a visit to those Islands in H. M. S. Pearl, for the purpose of examining into the condition of the inhabitants, and satisfying himself, by actual observation, as to the expediency of introducing any change into their political relations with the surrounding Colonies. "The report which His Excel-

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