The Guardian

Covers Prince Edward Island Like the Dew"

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

SATURDAY, NOV. 19, 1955

Overdone Speculation

The opinion of External Affairs Minister Pearson—"for what it is worth", to quote his own words—is that Russia is not planning aggressive war against the West. In this, the minister may be right. However, the argument he used in support of his opinion is a dubious one at best. He said: "They are no more anxious to commit suicide than anybody else". This is the familiar anti-war cliche that has been in use for a thousand years without exercising any noticeable benign influence on the bellicosity of aggressive powers. No country has ever started a war in fear and trembling. On the contrary, each aggressor in his turn has expected to overwhelm his intended victims in short order. The Kaiser had that in mind in 1914, Hitler in 1939, Tojo in 1941. If and when the Russians march against the West it will be because they have every confidence of winning the war; the prospect of suicide will probably not even be considered.

As a matter of fact—and there is no use in minimizing it—the preponderance of military strength in everything but nuclear weapons is at the moment decidely on the Soviet side. This is no secret; time and time again Western military leaders have drawn attention to it. In the nuclear field no one appears to be quite sure where the superiority lies; the guess of most experts in the field—but only a guess—is that it lies with the West. If this be the case, and if the Russians believe it to be the case, it might, conceivably, persuade the men of the Kremlin that aggressive war would mean national suicide. On the other hand. it might not. It is possible that the Russians are counting on the universal horror of atomic bombs and the like to prohibit their use in any future war. And there is, in fact, considerable opposition in Western official circles, to say nothing of public opinion, to the use of A and H bombs, except as a last, desperate resort. The Russians, of course, are aware of this, and they may think it is safe to start a "conventional-type" war, in which almost certainly they would have the initial advantage.

In any event, the speculation that war will necessarily be averted simply because of its possible suicidal consequences has been much overdone. It would be a great pity—perhaps a tragedy—if it were permitted to influence the course of Western military policy.

Report On Agriculture

There is something to be said for the American practice of having Senate committees go around the country from time to time examining various phases of the national economy. Perhaps something of the sort would not be out of place in Canada. If it did nothing else but draw attention to the fact that the problems of one area are the concern—or ought to be—of all other areas, a survey made by a parliamentary committee, made up of representatives of all parties and from all regions should be of some value.

The latest U. S. Senate group to tour the country was the Agriculture Committee, led by Senator Ellender of Louisiana. Since American agriculture and Canadian agriculture have so many things in common and, at some points, are virtually interdependent, the findings of this committee are of bilateral concern. The one thing that stands out prominently in the committee's report is what it calls "sagging farm income". This is general; no section of the country is exempted from the complaint, although some sections are in a worse plight than others. (This, of course, is the picture in Canada, too). The overall sentiment as seen by the committee is that the Republican administration is failing down on any realistic approach to agricultural prob'ems. (It seems that likely that most Canadian farmers are talking in the same manner about the present Canadian Government; there is, however, this important difference: the Republican Party stands or falls on its popularity in the Middle West farm belt; there appears to be no comparable situation in this country.)

One farmer witness who appeared before the Ellender Committee said something worth quoting: "Ain't we lucky, fellows, that we here are not working for the Kremlin and they are saying 'boys, you got to produce, and if you don't—caput!'" Naturally, this pleased the committee members, who were then reminded by another witness that, while a farmer—like all other people, including Senators—appreciates economic freedom, the glory of this freedom is at its brightest only when it is accompanied by reasonable economic stability. All governments know this; but sometimes they are a little hesitant about incorporating that simple fact into legislative policy.

Bartlett's Centennial

This is the centennial year for that grand old reference work, "Bartlett's Familiar Quotations". The New York Times Book Review carries an interesting feature story on the life of the original author. Tradition has it that John Bartlett's University Bookstore, on the southeast corner of what is now Massachusetts Avenue and Boylston Street, Cambridge, was to the Harvard and Cambridge wits of the Eighteen Fifties a place of foregathering and gossip. By all accounts Bartlett (1820-1905) was a hospitable and indulgent bookseller. He provided a backroom for his good customers to read and chat in; he let the college boys bear off what books they wanted, allowing them to pay when they could. Truly he lived up to his title of "Bookseller to the University."

Those spacious old days are gone. Today, says The Times, "the corner once filled by the serene, broad-gabled, old frame house, in the west half of which Bartlett's customers read his books and smoked their pipes, is occupied by a tavern, a liquor store, a hot dog stand and a shoe repair shop."

Another indication of changing tastes is noted in the content of the quotations appearing in the various editions through which the book has passed. In the first edition the Bible, the Book of Common Prayer and Shakespeare take up one-third of the volume; in the ninth they drop to one-fifth; in the thirteenth to one-ninth. In the ninth edition classical quotations are one-eleventh of the book; in the thirteenth they are one-sixteenth. Down with the classics! No Artemus Ward and no Mark Twain in the ninth edition, but in the thirteenth they dance hand in hand with Ned Harrigan, Will Rogers, W. C. Fields and Sam Goldwyn.

"Familiar Quotations" was Bartlett's masterpiece, but it was not his only book in his long life of eighty-five years. Students of Shakespeare know his large concordance to Shakespeare, and chess and fishing enthusiasts seek out his publications on those two calm and contemplative recreations, proper diversions for a man who loved quiet with his reading.

EDITORIAL NOTES

A United States' government official is quoted as saying "the cold war has come back." We hadn't noticed that it had been away.

• • •

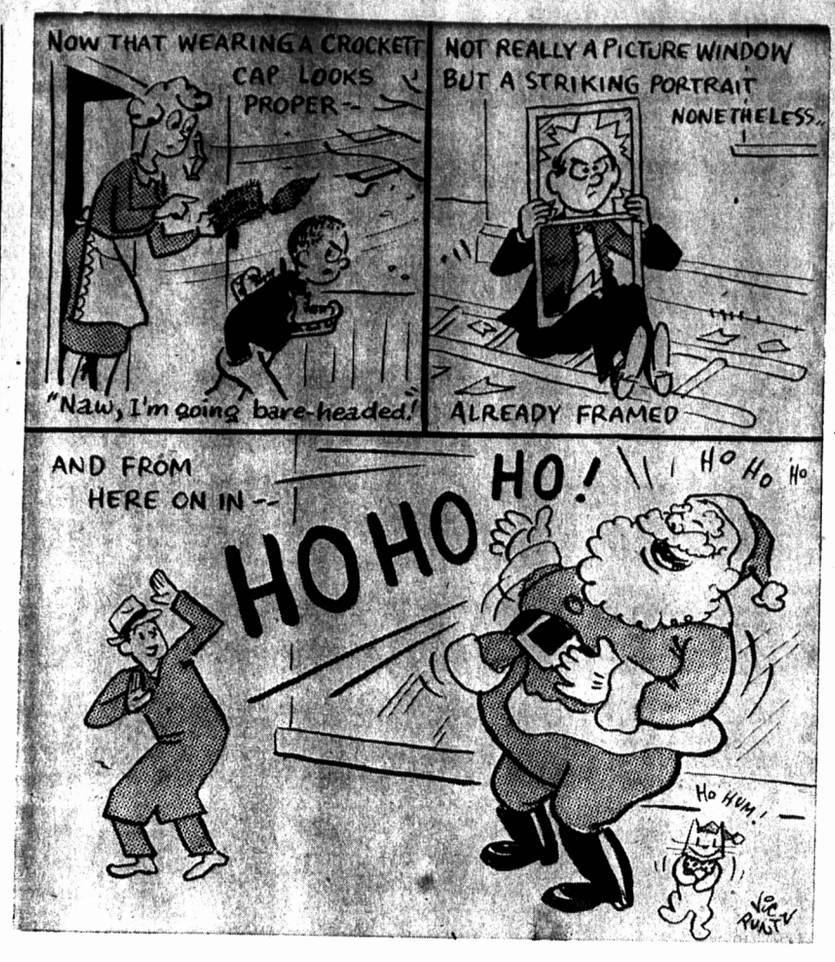
Israel has asked the United States for arms at cut-rate prices and easy terms. Nothing down and a few cents weekly, no doubt!

• • •

Foreign Minister MacMillan says the latest Geneva Conference was either a stalemate or a step backward. It is the second designation that appears headed for the history books.

• • •

Ngo Dinh Diem, who recently received overwhelming electoral approval as chief of state of South Vietnam is quoted as saying: "I hope I can count on continuing American friendship." Well, he could hardly say anything else in view of the fact that American friendship has provided his country nearly $200 million worth of aid so far this year, and there is more on the way.



SIGHTS AND SOUNDS

PUBLIC FORUM

This column is open to the discussion by correspondents of questions of interest. The Guardian does not necessarily endorse the views of correspondents.

MR. PARKER'S ADDRESS

Sir,—You are to be congratulated upon your editorial, "Mr. Parker's Address", in Thursday morning's paper.

To say it in a few words, which (incidentally) sum up the recommended technique of many modern social reformers: "You disagreed without being disagreeable."

I look forward to seeing more editorials of this high calibre in the future—and necessarily hope that opportunities (such as Mr. Parker's address) will continue to occur creating a demand (nay, a need) for such rectifying writing.

I am, Sir, etc.,
JOHN WALSH
Charlottetown.

APPRECIATION

Sir,—As Director of the Gaelic College and the "Macdonald Hundred" Junior Pipe Band, I wish to express the appreciation and thanks of the College and students for the fine reception and splendid support given by Prince Edward Island citizens generally in the two concerts and street parade staged in (the Prince of Wales College) Charlottetown recently. Especially appreciated was the personal and official support and interest of Premier Matheson, and Mayor Stewart.

As one Islander to another, I am happy to state that our twenty one student-pipers, drummers and flag-girls all returned home to Cape Breton Island high in their praise of Prince Edward Island people and your fair land. This fine impression too is being passed on to other students in our Celtic Culture School and to parents and C.B.I. citizens alike. What I am trying to say, Mr. Editor, is that P.E.I. folk not only make themselves goodwill ambassadors when away from home but at home also. Thank you for your warm goodwill. Prince Edward Island.

I am, Sir, etc.,
A.W.R. MacKENZIE
St. Anne's, Cape Breton.

The Poet's Corner

THE TORTOISE OF ENTERNITY

Within my house of patterned horn
I sleep in such a bed
As men may keep before they're born
And after they are dead.

Sticks and stones may break their bones,
And words may make them bleed;
There is not one of them who owns
An armour to his need.

Tougher than hide or lozenged bark,
Snowstorm and thunderproof,
And quick with sun, and thick with dark,
Is this my darling roof.

Men's troubled dreams of death and birth
Pulse mother-o'-pearl to black;
I bear the rainbow bubble earth
Square on my scornful back.

—Elinor Wylie.

The Age Old Story

And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge; and to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness; and to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity.

Graves Of Keats and Shelly

Ruth Draper in a letter to the New York Herald Tribune

It was with amazement and distress that I read the letter of Helen I. Davis under the heading "Keats' Neglected Grave".

As president of the Keats-Shelley Association of America, I would like to correct the false impression that her letter gives, as it is not only unfair to the association but shocking to interested readers.

The graves of Keats and Shelley are not neglected and there is an active group, of people in Rome in London and in the United States who have assumed the responsibility and cost of caring for them.

The Keats-Shelley Memorial Association was founded in Rome in 1901 by the then ambassadors of Great Britain and the United States, and a group of distinguished British and American residents in Rome.

The association bought the house in which Keats died, in the Piazza di Spagna, founded the library there and assumed the care of the graves of Keats and Shelley in the Protestant cemetery.

WAR YE

During World War 11, the three committees of the association, in England, America and Rome, were inactive, but the curator, Signora Caccatore, remained in charge of the house, which was closed to the public.

The superintendent of the cemetery, working under difficult conditions with very little money, did his best to keep the grounds in order. After the war ended the Rome and British committees were reformed, and the house was opened again, becoming a happy centre for American and British soldiers, and many other visitors.

The American committee was reorganized in 1948, and under the name of the Keats-Shelley Association of America co-operated closely with the other committees and shares in the expenses involved in the care of the house, the library and the graves.

The part of the cemetery to which Miss Davis refers is an open area containing very few graves. It is the older part, and the first non-Catholic stranger was buried there in 1765. Some of the very old stones are broken, and if they have never been repaired I imagine it is because no one now living claims the responsibility for such a task. The grass is not often cut and wild flowers grow.

To some people this part of the cemetery may seem neglected, but to others it has a serene charm as one comes from among the crowded graves and ivy-bordered paths under the dark shade of the cypress trees into the sunlit area.

KEATS AND SEVERN

There are no paths save the one which leads to the corner where, under a great pine tree, lie the graves of Keats and Joseph Severn.

These are covered with violets, and myrtle, rose bushes, rhododendrons and other flowering shrubs form a semi-circle behind the tomb stones beneath the sheltering tree. A beautiful wistaria vine planted long ago falls over the wall where a bas-relief of Keats is mounted.

During the past few years several improvements have been made. An ugly ditch which had always run along the wall near the graves has been filled in and drained, so that a wide gravelled space now exists where visitors can stand, or rest on a seat given by a generous donor.

Several members of the association have given much time and consideration to the planting of shrubs and flowers which will best withstand the great heat of Summer, and when Ivisited the grave last June I was impressed by the improvement and the promising appearance of the planting.

Many visitors bring fresh flowers to the poet's graves and every one I have seen has been struck by the beauty and serenity and dignity they find in the cemetery, which is one of the loveliest places to see in Rome.

A visit to the graves of Keats and Shelley will prove that an effort is being made to maintain, at these sacred places, such surroundings as will enhance their beauty and their significance, now and for many years to come.

Fluoridation In Toronto

(Toronto Telegram)

Subject to the possibility that opponents may take further action in the courts or before the Ontario Municipal Board, the fluoridation of the area's water supply for the prevention of dental caries is assured as the result of Mr. Justice F. G. MacKay's ruling.

The history of fluoridation in this area has been marked by prolonged controversy. It has also been noted for the careful study the subject has received and for the authoritative endorsation given fluoridation. On May 17 the majority of Metropolitan Council approved fluoridation and on June 14, by 13 votes to five, the necessary bylaw was adopted. In view of the fact that every major medical, dental and public organization in Canada approves of fluoridation it would have been extraordinary had Council acted otherwise.

Now Mr. Justice MacKay, dealing with Forest Hill Village's claim that Metropolitan Council did not have the power to adopt Bylaw No 278, that is to say that fluoridation was beyond Metro's powers, has ruled that it "had the power to pass the by-law." His Lordship also rules that Metropolitan Council acted in good faith in passing the bylaw. Moreover, he expresses the opinion "that a public water supply does not cease to be pure and wholesome water because of the addition of fluoride."

Fluoridation, therefore, has been investigated from the scientific, the civic and the jurisdictional points of view, and the conclusion is that its introduction would be a most progressive and beneficial step. It is to be hoped that the findings of responsible authorities will dispel the doubts that have been entertained and that no further controversy will impede a measure which will redound to the credit and the benefit of Metropolitan Toronto.

Medically Speaking

By Herman N. Bundesen, M. D.

NEW CREAM TO HELP VICTIMS OF ARTHRITIS

Sufferers from rheumatoid arthritis and osteoarthritis may be interested in the report of Britisher Trevor H. Howell. He says application of a vanishing cream containing 10 per cent diethylamine salicylate helps ease the pain.

This pain relief, he says, probably is caused by systemic action following absorption of the drug. The massage given the affected area in applying the drug probably helps, also

NIGHT DRIVERS

Here's a tip for you night drivers. You might find it helpful to close one ye when a car with very bright headlights approaches your auto. In this way, only the open eye can become temporarily glareblinded. Then, when you open the other eye after the car has passed, it is still adapted to the near darkness which surrounds you.

You can help your children develop good visual habits and proper coordination between eyes, hands and feet by giving them the proper toys and teaching them to play certain games.

Building blocks, of course, are excellent coordination developers, as are other toys containing one or more parts which can be fitted together. As for games, jackstraws, hopscotch and rope skipping are very good.

If you have a handicap you have to learn to live with it. An extremely important aid in this is organized self-help.

Back in 1952 nine Boston women with leostomies started a club to discuss their problems. Membership has mushroomed and similar organizations have been formed in Philadelphia, Los Angeles and in the Bronx Veterans Administration Hospital.

Exchange of technical and practical information and monthly bulletins are furnished by the club. If you'd like information about this group, you can write to Mrs. Sylvia Kirshen, 73 Newport Street, Arlington, Massachusetts.

QUESTION AND ANSWER

Mrs. E. F. T.: Is infection associated with a detached retina?

Answer: Detachment of the retina is not often produced by infection but most frequently comes from other causes such as injury.

BOOKS RECEIVED

WEATHERCASTING by Charles and Ruth Laird (Prentice-Hall, N. Y. $3.95). Amateur meteorology as a hobby has no limitations. You can do it casually, by using your eyes and a pencil and pad, or you can construct many valuable instruments for exact observation. So say the authors of this litle book and proceed to give every possible assistance to those who take either approach or anything in between.

BELOVED LADY by Barbara Jefferis (George J. McLeod, Toronto 341 pp. $4.50). The path of true love does not run smooth when both highways and manors were made dangerous by the disturbances incidental to the Wars of the Roses.

The author, a very modern Australian, has captured the atmosphere of a feudal England in which no man knew from hour to hour who was for York and who for Lancaster.

The tale has the human interest of the day to day lives of the dwellers in castles and some remarkably fine descriptions of the way in which those castles changed hands; the beseigers rather careful not to unnecessarily destroy their prospective property and the defenders hopeful of being restored if they lived to assert their rights when a friendly sovereign should be on the throne.

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MARK "FRANCE" DAY

PROVIDENCE, R.I. (AP) — The strains of "April in Paris" floated out of usually unmusical precincts of city hall and there was the unaccustomed sound of champagne corks popping. It was all part of the opening of "France Comes to Rhode Island Week." On hand were a group of French officials headed by Robert Valeur, consellor of the French embassy in Washington.

HERE

IN CHARLOTTETOWN

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— THERE IS NO OBLIGATION —

ROYAL CANADIAN AIR FORCE

NOTES BY THE WAY

Taxes are taxes and they all come out of the one pocket. It might be worthwhile to pause a moment and consider the plight of the gentleman who does the paying. It matters litle to him who wins the haggling over his prostrate body if the total tax remains the same. If there is any comfort for him it must lie in a negative sort of gratitude for the fact that he is not now being asked to pay more than he is.—Family Herald and Weekly Star.

In the next 20 years southern Ontario will have to more than double its power supply; by 1975 it will be using an expected 9,500,000 kilowatts. That means 5,000,000 more than will be made available by use of all the water power resources. The major portion of this coubled-up requirement will have to come from atomic energy. So declared A. W. Manby, general manager of Ontario Hydro, at the official opening of the Pronto mine, Blind River.—Northern Miner.

If you can't run yourself, and ve appreciate that there are many who can't for very good reasons, then it is possible that you know of some neighbor, some friend, some relative, who might make a good member of the Town Council, the Commission or the Public School Board. You will be performing a valuable service to the town and to the cause of democratic government in general if you talk the matter over with this person and try to convince him that he should allow his name to stand. Any municipal body can benefit by new faces, fresh ideas and representation from other than tight political circles.—Orillia Pocket and Times.

It sounds almost too good to be true, but the University of Rhode Island has received a patent on what it calls a cure for Dutch elm disease. The medicine is a chemical mixture that can be sprayed on the foliage, poured around the roots or, for best results, packed into holes bored into the trunk. Until now, the destructive blight has defied all atempts to cure it. The only treatment has been to destroy infected trees and try to keep the malady from spreading. Even under the best of present control program valuable shade trees are destined to be lost. The inventors of the new drug two members of the Rhode Island factulty ad an industrial chemist-say that they themselves do not understand completely how it works. But they report "highly successful results." If they have learned how to cure Dutch elm disease, magnificent elms of Buffalo and other threatened parts of the country may yet saved.—Buffalo News.

The strait-faced Sabbath of years ago is gone, and hardly any one would now want to give u the modern freedom of people t entertain themselves on Sunday It probably in no way weakens th feeling, among many people of a creeds and of none, that a com munity is a better place to liv in if Sunday is a quiet day, if peo ple do what they wish to rela but do it as much as posible fo themselves, in family or friendly groups, keeping to a minimum the numbers who work for wage or profit on Sunday.—Winnipeg Free Press.

A famous Scandinavian beauty spot has been saved by the atom. Ottlake, in the mountain us prov ince of Jamtland, on the border of Norway, was scheduled to be utilized to produce water power and have its wild beauty marred by hydro-electric installations. However, on returning from the recent international atomic Conference at Geneva, Swedish nuclear scientists informed their government that they believe it will be possible to obtain cheaper power from atomic plants than from the Indal river project, in which the planned Ottlake works were included.—Stockholm Aftonbladet.

The Chinook wind is possibly th most elusive and temperamental phenomenon in nature. Even the weatherman hesitates to pin it down. All he dares to report is that it's over the mountains and on its way; you may get it and, again, you may not. This adds greatly to Chinook interest. If you do get it, the fact that you knew it was on the way dosen't really dim the pleasure it brings with it. If you don't get it, well there's always a next time. You still know that Chinooks are in fashion and in production. And who really cares about on occasional shortage? Or too much when it gets a bit chilly in between? The Chinook will always be welcome on the plains. —Regina Leader-Post.

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