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Report On Britain

The London correspondent of the Ottawa Journal, who writes under the initials M.R.K.B., has been on his first visit to this continent for some years, and on his way across the Atlantic jotted down the following interesting remarks on the present state of Britain:

"We in Britain, for all our Conservative government, are still in the midst of a social revolution. Great fortunes are no more; the middle-class are sorely pressed; spending power has largely passed into new hands. The prudent baby today is born of 'working-class' parents.

"Wisdom is to live in a (subsidized) council house, and to have three or more adult wage-earners in the household, so that much income comes in and little tax goes out; to buy (by easy instalments) the pleasant accessories of life—car and TV—and to eschew the sterile flipperies demanded by middle-class standards—books or dinner-jackets; and of course to eschew also all tiresome 'social obligations.'

"These last the 'gentry' in the countryside are also beginning to abandon—the subscription to church funds, flower shows, village cricket clubs or Sunday school outings. They are reluctantly forced to this revolt both by the tax collector and by the disappearance of domestic servants. It takes time to organize and run a savings group—and now there is no time to spare from the kitchen. In many ways all this is a pity, and it is foolish to suppose that the welfare state will take care of it all."

Short-grained Men

Out in the countryside there is a descriptive phrase for a quick tempered man. He is "short-grained." And that hasn't anything to do with cereals, says the Windsor Star.

It rather is derived from wood. Wood with a short grain is brittle and breaks easily. Thus the man whose temper breaks quickly is "short-grained."

Baseball players know something about the grain in wood. If they hold the bat the wrong way it is apt to break. That is because the ball hits it "against the grain" rather than with it. In rural areas something "against the grain" is conducive to loss of temper.

The expert axeman makes his work easier by splitting wood "with the grain." The grain running up and down a block of wood makes it fall apart at the sharp blow of the axe. If you are breaking a piece of wood, break it against the grain; if splitting it, split with the grain.

EDITORIAL NOTES

The University of New Brunswick will soon be the first Canadian college with its own radar station, two students proposing to install the equipment as part of their work for B.Sc. degrees.

This week and next are being held the various local Fall conventions of the P. E. I. Teachers' Federation. The rural schools have been in session for weeks now and the teachers can attend their conventions with a grasp of the situation with which they will be faced during the term ahead.

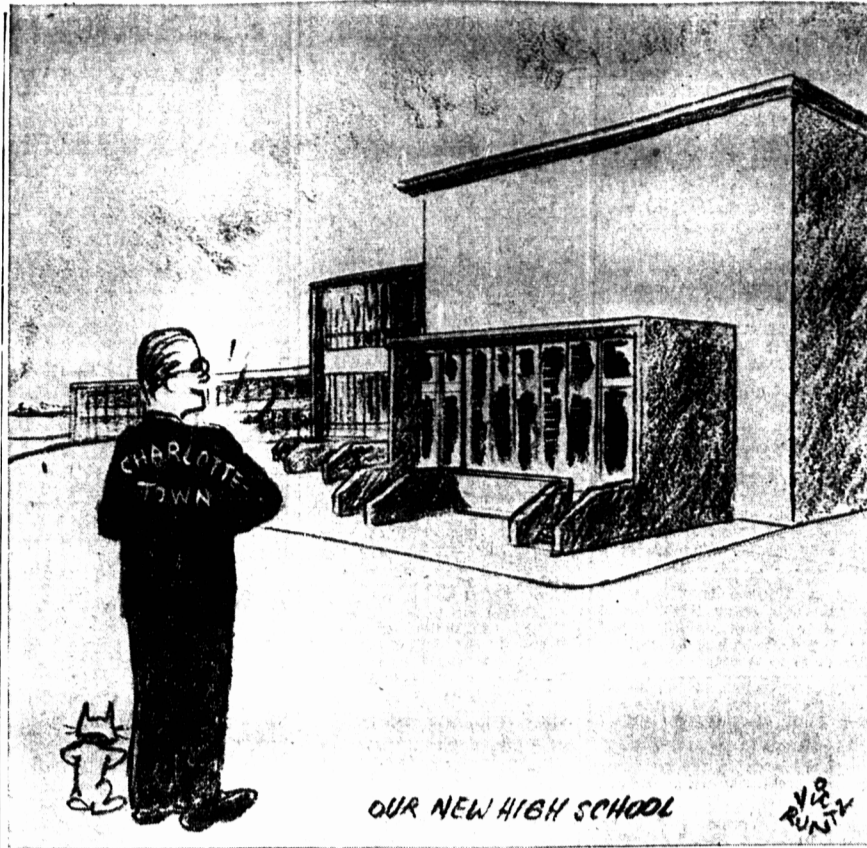
The Maritimes were fortunate in escaping the fury of hurricane "Carol" which lost much of its force and also moved inland before reaching this far north. The hurricane season, however, has commenced with a wallop. It is to be hoped that hurricane "Dolly" and all its successors will expend their energy where it will do the least harm.

Common Things

Salt is such a common commodity with us that we are apt to overlook the important part it played in world history. A recent release of the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization gives some interesting facts about it. The ancient Greeks used it as payment for slaves; a poor specimen of slave was said to be "not worth his salt". Early Roman soldiers were paid part of their wages in it; this was called a "salarium", whence came our word "salary".

Many countries have made salt a monopoly of the state. For a long time French subjects were compelled to buy so much of it a year, no more and no less, at a price fixed by the government. There was a salt tax known as "gabelle"; this tax helped to foment the French Revolution in much the same manner as the tax on tea in the American Colonies in the time of George the Third was one of the contributory causes of the War of Independence. Even now there are places in Central Africa and the South Pacific where salt is used as currency.

So it is with many of the common things of life. Because they are cheap and easily obtainable little or no thought is given to either their life-sustaining qualities or the important places they once held in the developing story of political and economic affairs.



OUR NEW HIGH SCHOOL

Proud Day

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.

TONIGHT'S MEETING

Sir, — With reference to an advertisement appearing on the Western page of this morning's issue (September 1) calling a meeting of potato growers in Summerside on September 2, I should like to clarify a statement contained therein.

This is to advise the public that the Provincial Marketing Board has not — up to the time of writing — received an invitation to attend this meeting, and I am reliably informed by officials of the Potato Board that no invitation has come to that office either.

As the advertisement indicates, the problem of potato marketing is a very important question at the present time and those who seek to discuss it should at least make an effort to have all the facts and information available.

I have been in touch with Mr. MacDonald, chairman of the Potato Board, who has been confined in hospital for the past several days, and who advises that even had there been an invitation sent to him he is at present unable to attend such a meeting. Because of previous commitments Mr. Shaw, chairman of the Provincial Board, and myself are also unable to attend a meeting tomorrow evening even if an invitation were received.

Mr. MacDonald advises that as soon as it is possible for the Board to assess the prospects of the present potato situation with any degree of certainty, and as soon as the Potato Board has determined the details of a marketing policy for the coming season, such a program will be presented to the potato producers of this province, and all others interested, for explanation and discussion as has always been the case since the Potato Board was organized. Potato producers in the province should be on the alert for rumours and misleading propaganda which apparently is still being circulated in an attempt to undermine the efforts of potato producers to improve conditions for themselves.

Farmers can be assured that as soon as some definite information is available respecting potato marketing it will be released to them by their own organization. In the meantime, any producer, dealer or organization having constructive suggestions to offer is invited to submit same to the Potato Board where they will be given careful consideration. The fact that certain changes and modifications in the original marketing proposition have been officially recommended to the Potato Board indicates that constructive suggestions are welcomed and acted upon.

In closing I may add that it is deeply regretted that farmers have been misled by the advertisement referred to above and it is hoped that if such a meeting is held it will be of a constructive nature which will keep the long term interest of producers in view. Also, I may state that if any recognized organization wishes to call a meeting to discuss those matters, the members of the Provincial Marketing Board, and I am sure of the Potato Board, will be only too glad to attend providing sufficient notice is given and arrangements made in advance.

I am, Sir, etc., J. L. DEWAR, Secretary, Provincial Marketing Board.

Old Charlottetown and P. E. I.

NEWS FROM NEW ZEALAND

"We are glad to learn by papers from New Zealand that the brig Pakeha, with passengers, from this port (Charlottetown), arrived at Auckland on the 26th May. A letter received by Mr. J. Bell, of this city, from his brother, one of the passengers, states that all on board were well, and not a spar damaged.

The Indicator, Sept. 7, 1964.

NOTES BY THE WAY

An old-timer is the one who can recall when one never saw a woman wearing men's clothing — Calgary Albertan.

Angered by obscene remarks from a young Detroit hoodlum, a 16-year-old girl hit him over the head with a pop bottle, then jammed an electric fan into his face. The 30 days the foul-mouthed youth subsequently got from the court was strictly anticlimax — Windsor Star.

The law sometimes seems to go out of its way to make itself ridiculous — to laymen, of course. There's that new law passed in Washington, for instance, which requires that all saboteurs and spies register themselves with the justice department. Under the new bill, espionage is punishable by death. If the spy hasn't registered, and is convicted, we assume punishment will be even stiffer. — Montreal Herald.

Thanks to the development of the A-bomb, the storage time for potatoes has been lengthened. What this will mean to New Brunswick's extensive potato industry remains to be seen. Scientists at the Brookhaven National Laboratory of the U. S. Atomic Energy Commission have succeeded in prolonging the storage period by exposing the potatoes to gamma radiation. This was obtained by means of a hollow pipe of cobalt metal made radioactive in the Brookhaven nuclear reactor. This exposure appeared to prevent for as long as 18 months sprouting and softening of the potatoes. — Saint John Telegraph-Journal.

Those who pioneer in new fields of research must take the bitter with the sweet, the penalties with the rewards. Take France, for example. That country has led the way in aquaplaning, in which men with spears and cameras in their hands and tanks of compressed air on their backs have descended in depths of 300 and more feet. Others have imitated them, and now it's quite the usual thing to have divers walking the sea floor, spearing fish or taking pictures. But as an illustration of how matters have got out of hand, the French government has just announced the appointment of four underwater game wardens, to ensure that underwater spear fishers have licenses. — Windsor Daily Star.

Meteorologists lately have been developing the outlines of an important new theory that may provide the long sought key to climatic fluctuations. The leading proponent of the new hypothesis, tracing weather patterns to solar disturbances, is distinguished meteorologist, Hurd C. Willett, one of the world's leading authorities on the causes of climatic change. In the light of his studies, Willett believes that the widely advertised United States temperature uptrend, which dates back at least 50 years, has definitely halted and probably reversed. He also hazards the following long-range forecast: A continued temperature decline, notably in the northwestern and north central United States, for the next 10 years, reaching a low between 1960 and 1965. In particular, Willett foresees cooler Summers and, if any, balmy Winters. — Fortune Magazine.

We're strongly opposed to brainwashing, but many of them are stale, with prejudices and need to be aired. — Kitchener-Waterloo Record.

Finland police have arrested six persons in the border province of Salla on charges of espionage on behalf of an unnamed foreign power. Investigations are continuing. Police say the six Finnish citizens have been engaged in espionage work since 1948 and have illegally crossed the border to deliver information concerning Finland to a foreign power. The arrests were angrily denounced by Finnish Communists as "provocation" and an "attack on the workers and peasants." — Finlandia.

They got a tip that a burglar was "trapped inside a building at 323 East Oglethorpe Avenue" so Savannah, Ga., detectives leaped into their cars and went roaring in pursuit. They hadn't gone far when the awful truth dawned. The address given was that of police headquarters. Undoubtedly the red-faced policemen would like nothing better than to get their hands on that telephone tipster, introduce him to the refinements and luxuries of cell life and regale him with funny stories. — Fort William Times-Journal.

British experiments with heather fibre have produced a lumber substitute claimed to be sometimes superior to wood. The plants are dried and pulverized, then beaten into a paste and moulded into flat slabs and other shapes. This hard surface material can be sawn or drilled, stained or polished. Waterproof, acid-proof and fire resistant, it also repels wood pests. Inner and outer walls and house sheathing, even furniture pieces, are made of the new board. — Saint John Telegraph-Journal.

The Passing Scene

By Observer

NEW PATTERN

I have had the opportunity and privilege of reading the text of a speech delivered a few weeks ago by Mr. Selwyn Lloyd, Minister of State in the British Foreign Office and, at the time, acting Foreign Secretary. The speech seems to explain official British opinion with respect to that country's policy in the Middle East. It was made just after the agreement with Egypt over the Suez Canal base had been signed.

In the speech Mr. Lloyd stressed what he called the "new pattern of relations" which Britain is trying to build up with countries in that part of the world. According to Mr. Lloyd, who was of course speaking for the Foreign Office, this new pattern is not dictated by the inability of British to adhere to the old slogan "What we have we'll hold"; it is rather a policy of realism in the face of certain political and social facts, which may be either regretted or welcomed, according to the point of view, but which cannot be ignored or belittled.

"It is foolish," said Mr. Lloyd, "to think that national aspirations can be ignored or suppressed."

There was a time—and it isn't very long ago—when the spirit of nationalism in a small nation was an annoyance to a bigger one, but there were ways and means of bringing it into subjection before it had time to make much trouble. That was so for the simple reason that imperialism was the fashion; and not only the fashion, but also a very practical political device. The big powers had a right—some called it a "divine" right to keep the little ones in their proper places.

Most important of all, it worked. And there was plenty of sound argument for it; sound, that is, when judged by the standards of that period. Now (from the free world point of view), it doesn't work. It isn't fashionable, and no one has a good word for it. This may be for good or it may be for ill (no historical process is necessarily or inevitably good or bad, but there it is, and it is the product of wisdom to recognize it and to make terms with it).

That, obviously, is what the British are trying to do. "Our policy," said Mr. Lloyd, "is directed to finding solutions that reconcile nationalism with our own interests." While it can be said that on the whole, the British pattern of imperialism of the 19th century and the early 20th was more benevolent in practice than most other patterns which have had places in the political history of mankind, no one pretends that it was altogether and completely altruistic in character. That, however, is beside the point in any discussion of the present situation.

The thing to note is that, when the imperialist principle was in high repute, Britain worked hard at it and used it for all it was worth. Now that the "national aspirations" to which Mr. Lloyd made reference are the vogue, the situation calls for the sort of adaptability sometimes confused with appeasement — for which British diplomacy is noted and to which, it may almost be said, Britain owes her survival as a world power.

In his speech, Mr. Lloyd cited two recent agreements as instances of Britain's realistic appraisal of nationalistic developments in the Middle East. They were: (1) The settlement with Egypt over the Suez Canal, which requires British troops to be withdrawn from the historic base within twenty

months. (2) The agreement with Iran for renewed operation of that country's oil fields by an international body in which British interests will be well represented.

The thought behind both agreements is not that the solutions to these long standing problems are satisfactory in every respect, or even that they are politically wise, but that they represent the best that can be expected in these times. It would be wrong to assume that the British Government is happy and cheerful about the settlement with either country; and it is noteworthy that no responsible British official has joined in the somewhat popular opinion that the withdrawal of British troops from the canal zone doesn't "matter" very much in this atomic age.

The truth is that it matters a great deal. As one reads between the lines of Mr. Lloyd's speech one finds that the British official opinion is not that there is a "holding on" by force of arms. That, while possible militarily, would have built up such a hatred in that part of the Arab world for the free world cause that, in plain language, it wasn't worth it.

There is, of course, no guarantee that Egypt and other Arab states will from now on support the West; but apparently the British Government considered it a chance worth taking. At any rate, an Arab world not definitely antagonistic to the West weighs more heavily these days than a military base retained in the face of bitterness over frustrated national aspirations. If Mr. Lloyd is a good spokesman—and there is no reason to think he isn't—that is how the British Foreign Office sees it.

The Poet's Corner TO THE STONE-CUTTERS

Stone-cutters fighting time with marble, you foredefeated Challengers of oblivion, Eat cynical earnings, knowing rock splits, records fall down. The square-limbed Roman letters Scale in the thaws, wear in the rain. The poet as muck, Builds his monument working; For man will be blotted out, the blithe earth die, the brave sun Die blind and blacken to the heart. Yet stones have stood for a thousand years, and pained thoughts found The honey of peace in old poems.

—Robinson Jeffers

The Age Old Story

But take diligent heed to do the commandment and the law, which Moses the servant of the Lord charged you, to love the Lord your God, and to walk in all his ways, and to keep his commandments, and to cleave unto him, and to serve him with all your heart and with all your soul.

SOME CONSOLATION

LONDON (CP)—Britain's bleak, rainy summer pleased agriculture ministry pest experts, who reported a big reduction in numbers of Colorado potato beetles. Up to the end of July only 29 had been reported—including 17 on imported produce and eight on ships.

Advertisement for Perfection Evaporated Milk. Includes text: GOOD COFFEE, Symbol of Good Taste, Good Judgment and a Good Cook, THE odds are two to one you use your coffee with good, rich, fresh cream. Any cup of coffee is better with Perfection Evaporated Milk. It's more like fresh cream than any canned milk you ever tasted. Stays fresh longer, too, in its protective, golden-enamel lined can. SELECTED MILK FROM FAMOUS ISLAND DAIRY FARMS. CENTRAL CREAMERIES Limited. CHARLOTTETOWN, PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND.