

THE GUARDIAN

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Our Airport Opportunities

Apart from its local utility, the value of the Charlottetown airport was strikingly demonstrated on two occasions recently, when American military planes, en route from Montreal to Newfoundland, made successful forced landings when weather conditions at Sydney and other mainland centres proved unfavorable. This Province is blessed with freedom from fog, and there is no question but that the Charlottetown airport could be developed to a much greater extent if provided with more adequate runways and other facilities.

The great development in air training at Summerside is an example of what can be achieved by convincing representations at Ottawa as to our natural advantages as a flying centre. The R.C.A.F. school in the Prince County capital is a permanent establishment and will doubtless become more and more important in Empire training plans as time goes on. But Charlottetown also has natural advantages which could be developed extensively in the field of commercial flying.

Few of us have yet grasped the tremendous possibilities of aviation, and the vast changes which will be effected when these possibilities materialize. Our Island isolation will then be completely a thing of the past, and our opportunity of development will be limited only by our own initiative and enterprise. There is no reason why this Province should not have one of the largest commercial airfields in the Dominion, and why assistance from the Federal Government could not be obtained in developing the Charlottetown airport in keeping with the trend of the times. This matter should be kept constantly to the fore by our representatives at Ottawa, for it is one which affects the interests of the whole Province for many years to come.

Goodbye To Kaesong?

Winston Churchill and the late President Roosevelt have been much criticized since the end of World War II for their decision taken at Casablanca to pursue the struggle until the enemy capitulated in "unconditional surrender". The abortive "cease fire" talks at Kaesong suggest that perhaps the two great wartime leaders were not so mistaken after all. For all that has emerged from the broken-off discussions at Kaesong has been vituperation, double-crossing and abuse.

The Kaesong talks, as might have been foreseen, were inevitably doomed to end in disaster. An oasis in the midst of a bloody battlefield, with the forces of both sides still arrayed in strength against one another, is no place from which to expect peace to emerge. Nor is it the proper function of military men, however competent, to conduct negotiations aimed at terminating the shooting war. That is the task of diplomats, trained to think in terms of compromise, and devoid of the temptation to back their demands by a show of military strength.

The very fact that there is tangible evidence that both sides have been guilty of violating the neutral zone in which the "cease fire" talks have been held demonstrates the futility of looking for a peaceful settlement of the Korean struggle at Kaesong. General Ridgway is on perfectly sound ground when he says that the only hope for achieving a "cease fire" is to resume the talks in some other place. The fact that the Communists have not chosen to act on General Ridgway's proposal indicates pretty clearly that the Kaesong talks, so far as they are concerned, are nothing much more than a propaganda device.

Living Longer

People are living longer, according to those who make it their business to study these things, and the figures for nearly all the important causes of death show a decline. Now apart from the inclination which most people have to prolong their own life there are certain considerations of interest to society in the trend.

Insurers, of course, rejoice with their long-lived policy holders. There are more premiums coming in before death benefits have to be paid, with profit to the companies and reduced rates to the policy holders.

On the other hand annuities and pensions must continue to be paid for an ad-

ditional number of years, increasing their cost whether met by purchase by the individuals concerned, their employer or a benevolent government. Having the average age of death raised by even a few years can play havoc with the solvency of any pension plan based on previous experience.

To society generally the trend requires a re-examination of the age at which individuals can be relegated to a non-productive role. The rising age of death in our present society means that the numbers of elderly people is increasing in relation to the young and middle-aged. Early retirement imposes an increasing burden on the working population.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Royalty sleeping on a siding in Quebec appears to be truly democratic.

Teachers can be forgiven for hesitating to deny emphatically that Autumn is referred to as Fall because then the soot comes drifting down.

Not one fatality occurred during the past three years on British Overseas Airways services. In that time they covered 1,350,000,000 passenger miles.

The mid-year meeting of the Fisheries Council of Canada commences in Ottawa today. It has been a year of great activity and even more revolutionary changes seem in store for the industry.

Now that the plaintive protests of parents have been seconded by educationalists, we may expect that parental authority will no longer be imperilled by an inability to cope with the youngster's homework.

A three-fold tragedy. In Poplar Bluff, Mo., a year-old child was killed in a fall from a bed, his grandmother hurrying to him, died of a heart attack, and an undertaker called to take the bodies suffered a heart attack and died Thursday night.

On October 20th the house where Marshal Foch was born, in the small city of Tarbes, France, will be opened as a museum to the memory of the famous soldier. The President of the Republic, Mr. Vincent Auriol, will inaugurate the museum, which will contain many souvenirs of the Marshal.

Elias Howe, American inventor, died this date 1867. Although Thomas Saint in England, Barthelemy Thimmonier in France and Walter Hunt in the United States had all developed earlier sewing machines the patents secured by Howe in 1846 secured him royalties of two million dollars.

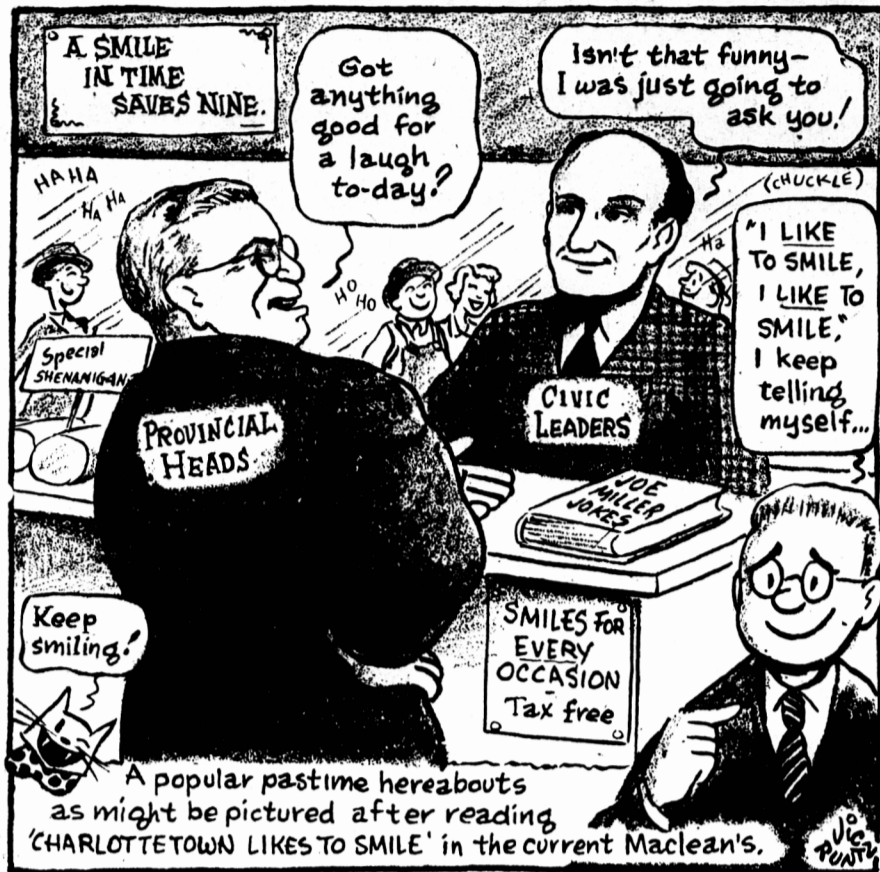
The official record, in history and painting, of Canada's fighting man has long been a careful concern of this country. Today, however, to be in line with the times it would be a very great advantage to have an official cartoonist accompany the 27th Brigade Force to West Germany.

A policeman did the trick. The "untossable" giant caber of Braemar Highland Gathering—19 ft. 7 in. of pine log weighing 121 lbs.—has been tossed for the first time. It was made in 1935. Mr. George Clark, former Dundee policeman and champion heavy weight athlete, tossed it on his third try to win a \$30 special prize.

The National Statistical Institute of France has just published a study on the various age groups in the French population. France has 4,800,000 old people (persons more than 65 years of age) and 9,500,000 children under 15 years of age. Among the latter there are 100,000 more boys than girls. In the French population in 1950, 1,100,000 French did not know how to read or write, or 3.3% of the population as against 16% in 1901. This percentage table includes Corsica, where the rate of illiteracy is highest—16%. Eastern France has the best rate—.04%, and the Seine area (Paris and surrounding suburbs) has an illiteracy rate of 1.2%.

As far as Mr. Abbott's advice to housewives regarding saving is concerned, the Government shows (says the Gazette) almost no inclination whatever even to lay the groundwork of economy. It makes few moves to reorganize the entangled bureaucratic structures, though they mostly have the essential features of the houses that Jack built. It does little to get the public accounts in intelligible form, though the Auditor General of Canada, year by year, begs the Government to give him "estimates details that mean something." So it is that when the Government tells the people that they must stop spending so much and live more carefully, the people are likely to grin. Perhaps it's not exactly polite to grin, especially when Mr. Abbott seems so sure of himself. But it's getting harder and harder for Canadians not to see the grim humor of the situation.

Living Up To It



Old Charlottetown

(And P. E. I.) THE YANKEE GALE

This is the one hundredth anniversary of the celebrated Yankee Gale (Oct. 3-4, 1851) in which more than seventy vessels were wrecked off the North Shore of this Province. The number of lives lost was estimated at 150. Most of the wrecked vessels were from the New England States, nineteen of them hailing from Gloucester.

A description of the havoc caused in this memorable storm has been given on other occasions in this column. Today's excerpt, from The Islander of Oct. 31, 1851, is in the form of editorial comment and throws a revealing light on the subject.

"Now that men's minds have recovered from the shock communicated by the unparalleled destruction of life and property on our North Shore, they begin to investigate the cause of the catastrophe. It has been mainly owing to bad vessels badly managed. The storm continued an unusual length of time, but it was not severe, and the mischief was consummated within a few hours from its commencement. On our Northern Capes not a rickety out-house has been injured that we have heard of, nor hardly a breach made in the still more rickety snake-fences, although exposed to the closest sweep of the blast. In short, we have heavier gales and higher tides almost every year, without any loss.

"Nevertheless, it seems probable that several American schooners capsized and foundered, besides what were driven ashore. We have been informed that some of them were very crank, and that others are broad, short and low, and very unlikely to live in a heavy sea. It was, perhaps, a knowledge of the untrusty character of their vessels that induced so many Americans to court destruction by rushing towards the night-harbours before a gale of wind, mingled with blinding rain. The following circumstances, the probability that, with ordinarily good management, not a single life, nor a single vessel, need have been sacrificed:

"Donald Morrison, Esq., an enterprising merchant of New London, had a well equipped and ably commanded schooner fishing amongst the Americans, the night of the disaster, and happened to be aboard himself. But Capt. Bell, instead of groping his way blindfold to the shore when the wind rose, judiciously stood out to sea. When daylight broke he made for New London harbour, but when near the bar, he considered that the landmarks were even then so obscured by haze as to render the attempt to run in too hazardous. He, therefore, shaped his course for North Cape, which he doubled, without having tacked off from leaving New London. He then ran down the coast and anchored under West Point, until the wind abated, in water as calm as a millpond.

"As the American fishing fleet is always in landlocked positions, not one of the vessels should be considered insurable without a marine barometer on board. Another nocturnal storm, preceded by a flattering afternoon, and a repetition of the late disaster may be anticipated on this or some other shore."

The Age-Old Story

And Abram was very rich in cattle, in silver, and in gold. . . . And Lot also, which went with Abram, had flocks, and herds, and tents. . . . And there was a strife between the herdmen of Abram's cattle and the herdmen of Lot's cattle; and the Canaanite and the Perizzite dwelled then in the land. And Abram said unto Lot, Let there be no strife, I pray thee, between me and thee, and between my herdmen and thy herdmen; for we be brethren. Is not the whole land before thee? separate thyself, I pray thee, from me: if thou wilt take the left hand, then

The Poet's Corner

FROM "THE BALLAD OF WILLIAM SYCAMORE"

My father, he was a mountaineer, His fist was a knotty hammer; He was quick on his feet as a running deer, And he spoke with a Yankee stammer.

My mother, she was merry and brave, And so she came to her labour, With a tall green fir for her doctor grave And a stream for her comforting neighbour.

And some are wrapped in the line fine, And some like a godling's scion; But I was cradled on twigs of pine In the skin of a mountain lion.

And some remember a white starched lap And an ewer with silver handles; But I remember a conkskin cap And the smell of bayberry candles.

The cabin logs, with the bark still rough, And my mother who laughed at trifles, And the tall, lank visitors, brown as snuff, With their long, straight squirrel-ribs.

—Stephen Vincent Benet.

Canadian-Tested Combat Suits For Korea

The latest type of combat suit for use of British troops in Korea was recently shown at the British War Office.

Major-General N.V. Watson, Deputy Quartermaster General, said the clothing had undergone extensive trials in Canada, and had been highly recommended by Everest mountaineers.

Colonel Croft, who was attached to the Canadian Army, said that tests were carried out at Fort Churchill in the winters of 1947-48, 1949-50, and 1949-50 and items of the winter clothing were tried out in the joint Canadian-U.S. Operation "Muck-Ox" in the far North two years ago.

Designed to wear with the combat suit, the equipment consists of an outer garment, a parka, of gabardine which is lined with wool. It has a wool-lined detachable hood reinforced with wire so that it can be adjusted to give protection against wind coming from any direction.

Underneath the outer garment is a minor parka, or combat smock. This is also wool-lined, and during extreme cold two pairs of trousers are worn. Troops will also have a combat cap and a neck square, rather like a swab, which can also be used for covering the face when sleeping.

Specially designed "mukluks" are of water-repellent canvas with rubber soles; a special sole will be worn with them.

The complete kit, including boots, weighs between 19 and 20 lbs.—considerable less than worn by an outdoor work in Canada in winter.

READY FOR WINTER

MONTREAL—(CP)—Employees of the City Roads Department have been busy overhauling the hundreds of machines used to battle the wintry conditions in Montreal. The city owns 33 big blowers and loaders, 118 tractors of various types equipped with plows, 46 street flushers that can be converted to snow clearance and many trucks and jeeps.

Books Received

CANADIAN MASTER TAX GUIDE 7th edition (CCH Canadian Ltd. 314pp. \$3). This no longer little book is designed to supply tax information to accountants, lawyers and company officers. The relevant rules are set out with convenient references to the Act, regulations, decisions of the Income Tax Appeal Board and decided cases but without discussion of those authorities. That even such a concise statement of the law should run to 314 pages is an indication of complexities of modern taxation legislation.

Chancellor Gaitskell Tells Them

(The Letter Review)

U. S. income rose from \$87 billion in 1929 to \$239 billion in 1950, a 36 per cent gain even allowing for 50-cent dollar. Commerce Department, reporting these figures, attributes them to increased productivity, "owing chiefly to the technological improvements and increased amounts of capital equipment used by the nation's industries."

Full reports are now available, through London Times and Daily Telegraph, of the forthright speech made to Trades Union Congress at Blackpool two weeks ago by Mr. Hugh Gaitskell, Chancellor of the Exchequer. Speech should be read by all Canadian labor leaders; also for Socialists who take as gospel what is said by high officials of British Labor Government. Excerpts follow, some direct, some indirect:

Discussing the rise in prices, he said that to have held the cost of living index steady would have meant an extra £800 million a year in subsidies on top of the £400 million they were already spending. It could not be done. It would be a completely impossible fiscal burden.

"If you took away all the excess incomes above £2,000 a year it would bring in only £53 million. This shows how little more we could get by further heavy taxation of the rich."

"You cannot avoid a fairly high level of profits generally if demand is buoyant and turnover high, as they are bound to be with full employment. We cannot honestly say that high profits, have been an important cause of the rise in the cost of living."

"The effect on wages and salaries of a transfer from profits is much less than is usually appreciated. If the dividends paid to shareholders after tax in 1950 had been reduced by a quarter—a fairly average cut—and the sums used to increase wages and salaries, the average addition would have been 3d in the pound—say 18d a week for a man earning £5 a week."

Anyone who felt like cutting loose should ask where that would lead. Wage and salary increases above any rise in productivity were passed on overwhelmingly in higher prices. He did not say that at the end of the leapfrog the workers lost and the property owners gained, or that it produced more inequality. If anything, there was probably some net gain to wage-earners at the cost of the so-called middle classes. Some rich people would be impoverished, though plenty of small people would also be badly hit.

But when one remembered the worries of economic instability, the continuously rising prices and the social strains and the individual injustices, was there much to be said for it? There came a point when, if the process went on swiftly enough, people began to lose confidence in the value of money, saving began to be regarded as useless, and the rate of spending increased. It could happen here with fatal consequences on our position as a centre of world trade and finance.

"A more even distribution of property has little to do with any immediate improvement in living standards. It is a matter, I suggest, on which the Labor movement will have to think very hard

Lessons From Europe In Community Progress

By Leo P. McIsaac Part One (continued) (All Rights Reserved)

CHRISTMAS EVE IN ROME

The next day was Christmas Eve, and the ceremony of the closing of the Holy Door was conducted by His Holiness. There are four holy doors, one in each of the four main basilicas at Rome, but the principal one is the Holy Door of St. Peter's, which is opened and closed by the Popes for each jubilee year. History tells us that in Pagan times, Christian sinners were required to do public penance for their sins, those who passed through the door were excused from all punishment. But abuses crept in, and the door was declared opened only during those special periods. It is a large bronze door, beautifully studded with relics of the past.

Space had been reserved for our group, but we were late getting there and the big question was, how could we get in? The great square of St. Peter's was literally crowded, all the entrances to the basilica were surrounded. The guards were conducting things in an orderly way even though they had difficulty answering questions by the people of so many different languages, and examining credentials before letting the different groups past. One can hardly imagine such a crowd of human beings even in an army, crowded into such a limited space.

After some delay we got in through a side entrance. The church inside and the square outside were crowded with men and women from lands, all devoted to the common Redeemer and on this special occasion paying special homage to Him at His headquarters here on earth. Some were weeping with the joy of being there; on the faces of others was the expression of extreme pleasure and thanksgiving. All were praying and at the same time trying to see as much as they could.

The ceremony of the closing, which was broadcast, took place under the glow of flash bulbs and movie cameras. At the conclusion the cardinals in red, with the guards in their finest dress, paraded up the aisle that had been roped off. Then came the Holy Father himself, carried by several guards on his Seca gatoria, extending his blessing, and smiling on all present. It was the third time we had seen him, but this time we were only a few feet away. The humble and sincere expression on his face moved everyone there deeply.

After the papal blessing and the closing benediction, the crowds slowly moved out. This gave us a chance to look around the interior of the basilica, but soon there was more excitement outside. The people who could not get in were calling for the Pope to come out. He soon appeared at his little window far above the square, came out on the balcony and it began to pour rain. There, thousands of people knelt under the cloudburst to receive the final blessing at the closing of another Holy Year. As he turned to go, the cries of "Vive le Papa" could be heard for miles around. The rain subsided, and the sun suddenly came out. It was a stirring incident.

We left then, to take a walk around the Vatican State and the high wall which encloses St. Peter's and all the buildings of the Vatican. At the back, opposite St. Peter's Square is the entrance to the Vatican museum. I saw many museums in Europe, but there are none like this. It is almost possible, from the exhibits there alone, to trace the development of Christianity and the history of the church from the time of our Lord down to the present time.

Lord down to the present time. We saw the Sistine chapel where the cardinals meet to choose the new Pope. It contains some of the greatest frescoes of Michaelangelo and the old Roman artists. For example, such beautiful and lovely paintings as the "Last Judgment," "The Cleansing of the Leper," "The Creation of Adam," "The Sacrifice of Noah," "The Conversion of Paul," could be seen standing there for days, studying the minute details of each.

There is a section set apart for the exhibition of the relics of the Popes of later years, such as their vestments, chalices, rings, watches, jewelry and other personal effects. There are documents from the early churches and exhibits from some of the greatest miracles as well as some breath-taking exhibits of the sculpture and art of Rome in every age.

That afternoon we also got in touch with a student priest from New Brunswick who helped us over many of the language problems and gave us some advice in finding our way around the city. With him, too, we visited the Scala Sancta, or the Holy Stairs. This is a stairs of 28 marble steps, near the great cathedral, in the only remaining part of the old Lateran built by Constantine. History has it that these stairs were taken from Jerusalem to Rome by St. Helena, the Emperor's mother. According to tradition, the staircase was once part of Pilate's palace and thus sanctified

in the next few years so that we can frame a policy which will be popular, effective, and also beneficial to industrial progress.

"The cost of living will go on rising here in 1952, even with stable world prices, if we go on pushing up our own costs through rises in wages and salaries. That is what we must avoid. If it comes up more than production goes up then prices will rise. The truth is as simple as that, and I would like to see it hanging as a text on the wall of every

office inhabited by any employee or trade unionist concerned with negotiations about increases of any kind."

PROTEST EVOLUTION THEORY

CAPETOWN—(CP)—Believing that evolution is a complete negation of the teaching of the Scriptures, members of the Dutch Reformed Church have protested against a proposal to group exhibits in the museum to illustrate the theory.

We had a visit to the Pantheon, built in the year 27 B.C. in honor of the pagan gods. It was dedicated in the year 610 to the Christian martyrs up to that time. This magnificent dome-like structure, with its open centre still stands and it contains some of the greatest works of the best painters and sculptors down through the years. As our guide said, "Without Michaelangelo, Bernini and Raphael, Rome would not be Rome."

The next morning we went to Mass down in the Catacombs which are the underground cemeteries of the old city. It was just breaking day when we left the surface and went down into the bowels of the earth, where, they tell us, there are 587 miles of passageway dug under the rock. There was not sufficient space for graveyards in the old city, so instead of spreading them out, they had to dig down. On the side of the passageway they would dig sufficient space out of the rock and dirt to place a body without a coffin and fill it in again from the side. There are tiny chapels down there which hold about 20 people and we had Mass there kneeling in the dirt, where now instead of candles it is all lighted with electricity. I had the privilege of serving Mass both in St. Peter's and down in the Catacombs.

We came back up for breakfast which consisted of strong black coffee, goats' milk, hard rolls, olive oil butter and jelly made of carrot juice and black currants. We were then away for a tour of the city. First, we went down the old Appian way, perhaps the oldest street in the world, along which St. Paul trudged on his last journey to be martyred. There are many famous tombs and monuments along here, too. It was interesting to have our return taken under some orange trees on one of the beautiful old laws.

Next, we went to see the ruins of the Colosseum, where until the fifth century men would fight until one or the other was killed, "butchered to make a Roman holiday." It was built during the first century and was capable of holding about fifty thousand spectators. After Christianity became stronger, the entertainment was changed to that of lion and bull fighting. We saw the Trajan column and many other old monuments of Rome, which date back before the time of our Lord.

When considered from the standpoint of history, Rome is the pattern of many glories and many civilizations. You can imagine the Rome of the Kings, Republican Rome, the Rome of the Caesars, the Rome of the Late Empire and of the early Barbarian period. Byzantine Rome, followed by the Rome of the time of Charlemagne and the Holy Roman Emperors, the Rome of the Communes, succeeded by the Rome of the Renaissance, Baroque Rome and the Rome of United Italy. All these are historic cities within a city and although unforgettable, it is impossible to describe them adequately.

We saw the old Roman baths, and visited many of the churches and scenes of martyrdoms. The parish churches are supported by the parishioners but all the monumental churches are maintained by common pool from the Vatican. Rome is built on seven distinct hills. The many and different styles of bridges across the Tiber, which winds through the heart of the old city, cap the beauty and magnificence of the whole setting.

(To be continued)