

THE GUARDIAN

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CHARLOTTETOWN WEDNESDAY, JAN. 10, 1951

EDITORIAL NOTES

This is supposed to be sub-zero month, but so far it has not lived up to its reputation.

The British egg industry is menaced by a growing outbreak of fowl pest which is depriving the meat-short country of about 100,000 eggs a week. Besides losing the eggs, farmers are having to kill off poultry—45,000 since November—in an effort to combat the disease.

The lights are out again in London, not because of danger from the air, fortunately, but because Britons are staying away from the job of coal-mining in multitudes. It is hard to blame them. Who would choose to work underground if a reasonably good living is assured otherwise.

While there is no sense in shouting peace when there is no peace, it is the part of wisdom to heed the warnings of war experts to be prepared for whatever may happen today or the day after today. We are living in strenuous times, and must ever keep our war-eye open for eventualities.

The three Prairie Provinces will not be represented at the Board of Transport Commissioners' general freight rate hearing at Ottawa on the 15th. The up-hill battle has certainly been wearisome and perhaps the oil-induced boom makes higher freight rates seem more bearable.

Controls will certainly be with us if this country later finds it necessary to go all out in war effort. The controls will not increase over-all production, rather the reverse, but they will be required to divert man-power and materials from ordinary civilian channels.

It is reported that H. M. C. S. Huron has been a most popular ship for drafts since being designated to sail for Korea on the 22nd. Naval morale and recruiting results are kept high because it is known that the long months of training will be put to use in time of need. It would have been an effective stimulant to recruiting in the regular Army had it been similarly employed rather than sidestepped for a special force.

Governor Dewey of New York differs from ex-President Hoover in declaring that the U. S. withdraw from the European and Asiatic mainlands and make the Western Hemisphere a defensive bastion against communism. "Once again," Dewey said, "the call should be plain to free men everywhere to band together and bravely live else they will fall apart and ignobly die." The U. S. must show the way in sacrifice, leadership and building of "overwhelming military force," not only to win if war should come but possibly to deter Red aggression. Dewey accused the Truman administration of permitting "the mightiest force on earth, our naval, air and ground forces, to disintegrate." The Soviet Union, he said, has the world's largest land armies and air force and "vast power under the sea."

All that is happening in Korea and the East generally is not stopping the clock of progress and peaceful advancement. For instance, New Zealand has abolished her second chamber, being convinced that the law courts could provide sufficient check on over-hasty legislation, and save the trouble and expense of maintaining a body of men whose usefulness as active politicians has terminated. Again, a new self-governing Dominion in Africa is being developed. A conference of representatives of Northern and Southern Rhodesia, Nyasaland and Britain is for this purpose to be held in London in March. They are expected to discuss whether world conditions make it desirable to have one commonwealth state in Central Africa instead of three; and whether creation of such a state would relieve Britain of some of her financial and political responsibility and tend to strengthen the Commonwealth as a whole.

In Wilmington, Del., dairies are selling milk concentrates and find it profitable. Henry Huff, official of the Clover Dairy, which distributes the milk concentrate, says its flavor could not be distinguished from ordinary milk. This product is available in one-third quart and quart containers. The smaller size, Mr. Huff states, is delivered on retail routes at 22 1-2 cents. The concentrate was introduced on the dairy's routes on Nov. 1, but no surveys have been made as yet to determine public reaction. But, Mr. Huff said, sales have been "gradually increasing." In Chicago, the Beatrice Foods Company reports it was test-selling a concentrated chocolate drink in about 100 stores. The Borden Company says it is experimenting with a new form of concentrated milk, but does not indicate when the product would be put on the market.

Especially Nice To Have Him Now



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.

RIGHT KIND OF COURAGE

Sir, — "January 1951. Resolved. Whatever comes or does not come I will not be afraid." (See Guardian cartoon, Jan. 3rd.). A splendid resolve with which to begin 1951, provided our courage springs from faith in God and not from material self-assurance. The cartoonist of course, leaves it an open question. Material resources, health, an assured living, the natural resources of the country, manpower, industrial potential are important and have their place and a certain dependence is to be placed in these material resources, but away and above all there is faith in God as a ground of courage as we look into the future. Standing back in 1950 who would have said that the Chinese Communists would attack in Korea and threaten to drive out the U.N. forces? It was thought the war there would be about over by the year's end, and Korea would be a free and independent nation to be strengthened and glory of the United Nations. But, if God be God, and we believe He is, we cannot doubt but that He has other plans for Korea. We can all have our guess but no man knows what is coming in this year but God himself. He is in complete control of every event and in his own way, is managing all things through human agency, of course, in the interests of His kingdom. Faith in God and His goodness is ultimately the only ground for a sane and dauntless courage. "They that trust in the Lord shall be as Mount Zion which cannot be removed but abideth forever." I am, Sir, etc. W. I. GREEN, Stanley Bridge.

DANGEROUS DRIVING

Sir,—If a man gets drunk, picks up a gun and shoots one of his fellow men, everyone gets excited and calls it murder. Put this same man in charge of an automobile, in his same condition, and when he kills someone in this manner, nobody worries too much about it. In the one case, he in all probability will hang. In the other, he will be fined and lectured. If he is sent to prison it will be for a very comparatively short time. What's wrong, and where? Not long ago a drunken taxi driver killed four people in one of the larger American cities. Brought up before a judge, this same judge who was supposed to be an educated man, sentenced this man who had snuffed out four human lives in as many seconds, to thirty days in jail! I wonder if this judge sleeps well at night? In some cases, a heavy fine is thrown at the guilty party. But the guilty party may be a millionaire, and three or four thousand dollars is, to him, what the average man is five dollars. Has this man been punished for his misdeed? Stiff sentences are handed out for burglary, robbery and many lesser crimes. Yet when the time comes to hand out a just punishment to a man who robbed another of his life, because of his carelessness and complete disregard for the safety of others, we fall down terribly. These trials are farcical, and the punishment (in nine cases out of ten) an insult to any man or woman with an ounce of decency in them. Those who have the power seem to ignore this ever growing menace, and ostrich like, bury their heads in the sands of neglect. In this regard, certainly, the punishment does not fit the crime, whereas it most definitely should! I am, Sir, etc. F.H.M. Cornwall, P.E.I.

FARMERS WHETHER IN 1951?

Sir,—The harrowing experiences of many farmers who have become too much addicted to the growing of potatoes, and dependent upon that crop as a means of livelihood, will no doubt cause them to hold conferences with each other on the pros and cons of the industry, before making final decision for the year 1951, but nine times out of ten it will be safe to abide by one's own judgement rather than listen to others. That mythical "They" who are given credit for the annual prophecy that "This is the year to go in for potatoes," a forecast based more upon hunch than on sound reasoning, have done more damage to farmers in the past than can ever be redeemed, and given to the industry, a discolored optic not actually deserved if saner methods had been followed. There will conceivably be a measure of retrenchment in potato growing this year, by those who have already sold at a loss, as well as others, still loaded down and unable to dispose of their holdings to any better advantage. But to what other line of agricultural activity will the farmer turn his attention as replacement of the job now being discarded? Naturally we suggest, increased livestock production, and theoretically that may be the answer. It will probably be argued something like this. "Parts of the world are now at war, and recruiting of armies is engaging attention in almost every country." "Production of armaments in preparation for a possible third world war is going on at an ever increasing pace." "Tremendous military and industrial consuming centers are thus being created for the products of the farm, of which livestock power is the chief." "Depleted man power on the farm may be unable to cope with production demands and the resulting scarcity will assure higher prices and bigger profits." "For years to come, no matter what the outcome of present international negotiations may be, a demand for livestock and associated products will continue, etc." That may be the trend of reasoning, and it may sound most alluring when in the form of argument, or on paper, but there are other factors that lead to logical questioning and frank answering. It may well be asked what position Island farmers occupy with regard to opportunities such as outlined, and if they exist. Are they situated so they can take full advantage? The answer definitely is, they are not. Are Island farmers at a disadvantage as compared with farmers elsewhere in Canada, and why? Island farmers are handicapped in many respects as compared with agricultural addlees elsewhere. Some of the causes are of outside origin and beyond local control, while others are directly due to faulty local leadership. The chief impediment to engaging in a program of expanded livestock production is a glaring example. The reference is in respect to a potential if not certain scarcity of livestock feeds this coming summer, obtainable at a price that will give some assurance of a margin of profit after feeding. Without some promising inducement on this point, livestock production on a greater scale than at present would be hazardous indeed and a gamble equal to that which brought about the present potato debacle. Reference to "faulty local leadership" is based upon observation over a course of years. It has been odd to observe, but equally patent to behold that in the main, aid to farmers consisted chiefly in giving a hand in time of emergencies rather than in spending a dollar in taking precautions that would prevent the occurrence of these periodic calamities. Had this opposite course been adopted, to the end that adequate feed supplies would always be available to the livestock producers of the Province at a reasonable cost, farmers could capitalize upon present attractive production opportunities to very profitable advantage. Plans formulated four years ago leading to such a desirable objective were scuttled in favor of a "better policy" which never became a reality and now is an utter impossibility. Farmers are still dependent upon the hand to mouth feed policy of a generation ago with all its uncertainty of continuity and excessive purchasing costs. It is time somebody made even a belated move. I am, Sir, etc. J. A. GILLIES, Charlottetown.

Old Charlottetown (And P. E. I.)

HARBOUR IN JANUARY

"During the period of upwards of thirty years, which the writer has passed in Prince Edward Island, he has never before seen the harbour open so late as the 8th of January, the day on which he is writing this article. It was in the year 1828, we think, that two vessels arrived in Charlottetown harbour on the 5th day of January, one from Antigua, the other from Halifax. In this year, 1855, two vessels arrived in the same harbour on the 7th of January, and this, we think, will be the latest on record. "It is perfectly well ascertained that the different harbours in the Island were formerly closed by ice at a much earlier period than they are at the present day, but we have no data by which to ascertain that this fact is indicative of any great change of temperature in the seasons. One reason for the earlier closing of the waters by frost arose, we take it, from their being more sheltered by the forest. In the earlier periods of its settlement, and from the circumstance of their being confined within narrower limits than they now are, it is astonishing how much wider the rivers, as they are called — being in reality arms of the sea — are, since their banks have been denuded of trees, to what they must have been when in a state of nature. "Even in our recollection, the bank known as the site of the old windmill has been diminished by several yards, by the operation of the frost and the encroachment of the tide. The forest must have flourished on many parts of the banks of the river, where there is now nothing save an expanse of water at high tide." —Hazard's Gazette, Jan. 10, 1865.

The Age-Old Story

Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended; but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus. Let us therefore, as many as be perfect, be thus minded; and if in any thing ye be otherwise minded, God shall reveal even this unto you. dependent upon the hand to mouth feed policy of a generation ago with all its uncertainty of continuity and excessive purchasing costs. It is time somebody made even a belated move. I am, Sir, etc. J. A. GILLIES, Charlottetown.

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Notes By The Way

The first half of the 20th century has been good to Canada in bringing her greater prosperity, wider liberties, larger adventures, and more freedom. It has brought adversity, too, but these, while they have annoyed us, have strengthened us. So, on the whole, we cannot complain. — Vancouver Province. The only thing we dislike about Christmas trees is that although there are always many willing hands available for the trimming and decorating, there are few who will have any part of the dismantling and disposal of same. We think an effort should be made to popularize a "detrimming of the tree" party. This would help to make a pleasure out of what is now a very doleful task. — Brockville Recorder and Times. Evidence that Winters are getting shorter and milder continues to accumulate. What was the reason? Was the Gulf Stream shifting? Or as some maintained, were sun spots responsible? Or was the world just travelling through another of many weathers cycles in the long passage of time? Those who subscribe to the last theory could offer as one argument the fact that in pre-Loyalist days, a century and three-quarters ago, southern New Brunswick had a Winter in which there was almost no snow. This is described in diaries of the first English-speaking traders at Saint John. — Saint John Telegraph-Journal. The present calendar is changeable and irregular. It is a nuisance to the ordinary man, and more important, it makes difficulties in keeping business records and making comparisons. How can one month's production be compared with another when the months begin on different days, and have different lengths? Even if the months are of equal length, one may have four Sundays and the other five. Unequal months cause headaches in calculating wages and salaries, interest, insurance, rent, pensions. Calendar reform has been before the Congress of the U. S. and the United Nations. It missed a good opportunity in 1950, which started with a Sunday. It is not too early to start preparations for a change in 1956, which will be the next year that begins on a Sunday. — The Financial Post. The speaker of Britain's House of Commons rules on matters of conduct; he decides, among other things, what one M. P. may not say about another. In 1844 Sir Thomas Erskine May put the rule in a "Treatise on the Law, Privileges, Proceedings and Usage of Parliament" — work kept up to date by clerks of the House. Last week the latest edition of "Erskine May" was published. Four emblems had been added to the banned list. They were: "cheat"; "no! a damned one of you opposite"; "stool pigeons"; and "bastard". — The New York Times. The year just opened may lack the promise and radiance of other years. It may seem dark with uncertainty and the menace of aggression. But granted the uncertainty and menace, it is still a year of great promise. There have been other periods when the future seemed hopeless. For example, compare the present with the time of Galba, described by Tacitus as follows: "We are entering upon the history of a period rich in disaster, gloomy with wars, rent with seditions and savage in its very hours of peace. There was a defilement of sacred rights, adulteries in high places, the sea was crowded with exiles, island rocks were drenched with murder — all was one delirium of hate and terror, slaves were bribed to betray their masters, freed men their patrons. He who had no enemy was destroyed by his friends." — Winnipeg Free Press.

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The Poet's Corner UPON ECKINGTON BRIDGE Man shall outlast his battles. They have swept Avon from Naseby Field to Severa Ham; And Evesham's dedicated stones have slept Down to the dust with Montfort's oriflamme. Nor the red rear nor the reflected tower Abides; but yet these eloquent grooves remain. Worn in the sandstone parapet hour by hour By laboring bargemen where they shalld ropes. E'en so shall man turn back from violent hopes To Adam's cheer, and toil with spade again. —A. T. Quiller-Couch

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