

THE GUARDIAN

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"The Strongest Memory is Weaker Than the Weakest Ink"

CHARLOTTETOWN WEDNESDAY, DEC. 27, 1950

Evacuation Not Submission

The evacuation of United Nations forces from the Hungnam beachhead was a brilliantly successful operation but by no stretch of the imagination could it be regarded as a victory.

It is consoling that brave men were not cut off there to be killed or taken prisoner, and that they remain as an effective fighting force and have, in fact, been largely shifted to other fighting fronts.

His Majesty spoke for free men and women the world over when he quoted John Bunyan. "Whatever comes or does not come, I will not be afraid."

Economic Growing Pains

In a recent Moscow speech Marshal Bulganin boastfully referred to the great strides made in Soviet production. Steel, pig iron, petroleum, coal, electric power, motor vehicles and other equipment essential to the maintenance of huge standing military power all showed a striking rise.

Marshal Bulganin may have erred on the side of optimism. It would however be unwise to discount his figures too heavily. The important thing is to see that the productive capacity of the western democracies keeps pace with Moscow boasts.

As the frontier defences of the factory spring into action, certain painful economic consequences will inevitably follow. The dollar's purchasing power will decline. The demand for durable and consumer goods will rise as the labor force grows.

Goals To Newcastle

"Carrying coals to Newcastle" has for generations been a well-understood idiom of the English language. The sense of the phrase has always been taken to mean something extremely silly, such as hauling coal to a place long noted for its coal mining industry.

Newcastle's reputation for producing its own coal requirements was achieved, of course, in the days when coal mining was still a private enterprise. Today, in Newcastle and elsewhere throughout the United Kingdom, coal mining is the business of the Government.

Perhaps Britain's Fuel Minister will even buy some coal from the collieries of Nova Scotia. What is puzzling, however, is that the Fuel Minister does not say anything about the planned production of British coal which was to keep everyone warm and happy in the United Kingdom.

More Dutch Immigrants

The announcement from The Hague and Ottawa that 10,000 more Dutch immigrants are coming to Canada in 1951 is hailed by the Ottawa Journal as a matter for satisfaction. These new settlers from The Netherlands, many of whom come in family groups, are the very best type of immigrant this country can secure.

Unlike many who desire to migrate to Canada from other lands, those from The Netherlands are by and large persons with a certain amount of financial backing and with a great desire to settle on land of their own. It is land hunger and overpopulation of Dutch soil that makes migration necessary for younger sons.

age and must have a certain amount of money to get settled here. Many are highly-trained agriculturists.

"It is this very desire to own land of their own, to get settled in Canada," says the Journal, "that has been the basic cause of criticism here. Canadian farmers are inclined to complain that these Dutch immigrants are only anxious to learn the language, save sufficient for a payment on land of their own, then move on.

"Another source of trouble has been that many of these Dutch families have gone to parts of the country where the climate and type of farming have not been what they were trained for. Naturally, when the opportunity came, they moved to a milder zone where more intensive farming on smaller acreage was the rule.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Festival of St. John

Three days off duty in succession, the stores must be excused for not observing the usual half-holiday this week.

There were a few unfortunate accidents here over the week-end, but on the whole we escaped wonderfully.

Felicitations to Hon. Thomas Vincent Grant, M.D., C.M., Montague, P. E. I., 74 Saturday.

"The thing" has been revealed in all its horror, that Christmas present which cannot be too soon forgotten.

Lady Banting, now visiting her mother at Newcastle, N. B., is being welcomed back to the Maritimes after teaching for two years at the University of Hong Kong Medical Centre.

Schools being on holiday, it is too soon to learn whether pupils will back up their aversion to homework by producing copies of the Ontario Royal Commission's report.

The production of steel wire is up and that of wire fencing down from a year ago, a typical example of the changing emphasis of our no longer peacetime economy.

A faster and more powerful version of the De Havilland Comet, the world's first jet airliner, is being planned. De Havilland Ghost jet engines will be replaced by a more powerful British jets. The new Comet will be for the longer world stages.

It has taken a long series of boxing fatalities to bring it about, but the proposed adoption of head harness by the National Boxing Association of the United States should be almost as long a step in the right direction as was the abolition of bare knuckle prize fighting.

The recent communication and power disrupting storm illustrates the desirability of alternate routing for messages and electricity. A grid system covering the Island with every power installation contributing but not isolated seems to be the long-range goal.

The old Levis Ferries have changed hands, Mr. Armand Ruelle, Montreal, having acquired control from the previous president, Mr. Edgar Cote, Quebec. It is the intention to add an additional steamer this coming year, making a fleet of four steamers.

Charles Lamb, English essayist, died this date 1834. One of the most lovable characters in English literature, his essays, written in a unique indescribable style, mingling quaintness and delicacy, humour and pathos. He ranks high also as a literary critic. He never married but devoted his life to his insane sister Mary.

Canada's proposed health insurance plan will lead to socialized medicine, Dr. Emile Blain, professor of ophthalmology at the University of Montreal, stated at a dinner of St. Mary's College Graduates Club at the Ritz-Carlton Hotel. Dr. Blain said it would be difficult to conceive of an enterprise such as health insurance which would not lead to socialized medicine.

In Washington this story was getting chuckles around the state department on Christmas Eve. During the Atlantic Council meeting at Brussels early last week, Foreign Secretary Ernest Bevin of Britain called State Secretary Dean Acheson to one side. "If they sack you, laddie," Bevin is reported to have said, "I've got a place for you."

They Go Well Together



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.

R. A. F.'s GOOD WISHES

Sir,—I notice, from the revival of the Canadian air training scheme in a modified way now, that you are soon to have the R. A. F. back with you in P. E. I. at Summerside, and possibly some of their number have already arrived. I suppose, of course, that the air training there will remain mostly R. C. A. F. with R. A. F. men just being attached to a period for training; and as there has been no mention of Charlottetown in the scheme of things, I take it the former R. A. F. camp will not be re-opened?

Very likely, of course, it would be in a way a serious inconvenience, to say the least of it, to Charlottetown to have such another large service establishment on its outskirts once more, since the original site, I recall, is now used for housing purposes, and the need for space for that is hardly likely to diminish in any way. Strangely enough our latest neighbours here in Beckenham—a young family who moved in to the house next to ours at the beginning of June—have also some connection with P. E. I. in that the man of the house, a Mr. Aldwinckle, also spent some time in R. A. F. service in P. E. I. during the war. He was not, however, so long there as myself, being then on a training course at Summerside (1942), and as he had no leave from there he tells me he had very little time to get about and see anything of the rest of the island. He was there only in the summer months and the other night when we were talking of our service experience in Canada and looking over some of the photographs I took at various places there he was quite surprised to see how severe the P. E. I. winter could be, particularly when he showed him pictures of the ice and icebreaker in Northumberland Straits.

We are, I must say, very fortunate in these neighbours. They are rather younger than ourselves and are in fact the only young people near by with whom we have much contact. Also as they have two little girls, one older and the other younger than Angela they make fine playmates for her, and luckily all of them get along famously, together.

Angela, now two years and three months old, is right out of the baby stage now, runs about with the greatest vigour all day long, and has grown quite a chatterbox in her own way. Just how fast she seems to "get on" in fact we realize most of all from the necessity for already having her fixed up for school. So great is the demand for places in reasonably good schools in this area—especially where girls are concerned—that we have even now had to book her for her preparatory school, one just a few minutes bus run from here which she will enter in September 1953 when just 4. We were only just in time too to get her booked that far ahead. For two years she will there for half a day only, and then attend all day until she is 11. So she is now fixed up at least until then, all going smoothly.

Here in London, as you no doubt know, attempts go on to obtain increases in profits—and as a result the only real hardship of all this so far on editorial staffs has been to impose complete lack of scope and slow down all promotion and recruitment to the profession in a most discouraging fashion.

The other great Press problem for Britain these days is whether or not a Press Council will be brought into being; and though neither proprietors, managements nor editorial men have any great enthusiasm for the idea—except for a few who are really more concerned with politics than journalists the feeling is that unless the Press very soon forms one of its own volition something much worse than they would like will be forced upon us all by Government action and we'll have to "like it or lump it". As I still find time to take an active part in the affairs of the Institute of Journalists, and will be serving on its national council at the New Year, the effect of all these developments on journalists of both staff and men and freelances, is something I'm likely to be a good deal concerned with in the next few months. So one way and another, I always keep busy, and don't have time to have worries these days.

Again, with warmest regards and wishing all of you at P. E. I. and elsewhere in Canada, all the very best.

Notes By The Way

York Township has reached the conclusion that "a dog's a dog, all that", and reduced the licence fees for female dogs. Most municipalities have a higher charge for female dogs, and it seems rather a silly "ice" when it is realized that a female dog's claws are not more destructive in a garden than those of a male. As every dog breeder knows, it is always the male dog that is always wandering around the streets. For the greater part of the year a female dog is strictly a home-lover and never wanders far afield. — Regina Leader-Post.

The University of Alberta's

professor of entomology, Dr. E. H. Strickland, was telling a city club the other day about "some of nature's mysterious and animals in the Alberta area just east of Medicine Hat. In the Cypress Hills there, Dr. Strickland said, he had found a variety of scorpions, termites, tropical wasps, horned toads and a kangaroo rat. Just to prove the point, he displayed a live scorpion caught in Medicine Hat. Dr. Strickland offered a scientific theory as a possible explanation of this oddity in temperate Canada, and perhaps Kuyard Kipling had the answer when he described the Alberta hot spot as having "all hell for a basement."

Old Charlottetown

(And P. E. I.)

THE OLD STORY "We have not received a Mail since Saturday last, owing to the ice on the Straits not being sufficiently strong to carry the Couriers and their boats. Several attempts have been made from this side to reach Cape Tormentine, but have failed. In one or two instances the Couriers have been out for hours, and have been obliged to return.

"Where is the Georgetown Packet? Could she not have been engaged to take a Mail or two to and from Pictou? The English Mail despatched this week will not, in all probability, reach Halifax on Friday afternoon next, in time for the Steamer. At this season of the year this is a serious matter."

—The Islander, Dec. 18, 1868.

Excessive commercialization of Christmas

Perhaps the "fauna" were not trapped by the hills, but came up from below! — Edmonton Journal.

Christmas and the premature appearance of Santa Claus in Edinburgh stores have been criticized by the education committee of Edinburgh Town Council. The Rev. Edwin S. Towill said: "I think it is a travesty of the real meaning of Christmas that our big stores in Princes Street should set up good old time-honored Santa Claus two months before Christmas." Christmas customs, he thought, should be kept within the Christmas season. If they were extended outside the season, the whole meaning of Christmas would go. — Edinburgh Scotsman.

It is a good thing for Canada

that Canadians like I Norman Smith of The Ottawa Journal can leave their home duties for a time and get around the world, when they bring back as intelligent a report of it as Mr. Emith has been bringing to the Canadian Club of Eastern cities. We like Mr. Smith's accent on the theme that people who have very little of this world's goods must have a faith, a mysticism, to make up for their lack. That is a theme which is capable of being reversed; the poor peoples of the Orient may possibly think that we, the rich nations of the West, are but inadequately compensated by our riches for the faith, the mysticism, which those riches have taken from us. — Toronto Saturday Night.

The Poet's Corner

SNOW-BOUND The old familiar sights of ours Took marvellous shapes; strange domes and towers Rose up where sty or corn-crib stood. Or garden wall, or belt of wood: A smooth white mound the brush-pile showed. A fenceless drift what once was road; The bridle-post an old man sat With loose-flung coat and high cocked hat; The well-curb had a Chinese roof; And even the long sweep, high aloft, In its slant splendor, seemed to tell Of Pifa's leaning miracle. —John Greenleaf Whittier.

LONDON, Dec. 26 — (Reuters)

—The Russian academician Lev Berg, 75, president of the Soviet Geographical Society and a professor of Leningrad University, died Monday, Tass reported today. Two years ago Berg staged Soviet claims to Antarctic territory in a series of articles in Soviet periodicals.

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A New Age Is Forged On The Anvils Of War

1900-50 IN REVIEW By CHARLES BRUCE (Canadian Press Staff Writer)

On the evening of Jan. 27, 1901, a portly, bearded man dispatched a telegram from Osborne House, the royal residence on the Isle of Wight, to the Lord Mayor of London.

"My dear mother, the Queen, has just passed away. . . . Victoria was dead. . . . Her death may be taken as the first of the great news stories of the past half-century. Any backward glance at news must always waver between the fading banners of single breaks and the long trends of life and habit, reported — often unconsciously and by implication in soberer columns, on inside pages. Between what was known then and what we know now. But Victoria's death stands up as a story that will not fade.

Not because it was unexpected—death is inevitable. Not because, in itself, it could alter a way of life. But because it remains a milestone in time. The end of an era. The beginning of an age. Ten of the first 50 years of this new age, the world gave to war. It is almost impossible to measure the impact of news in wartime against the stories we call "great" in periods of peace. Suffering, sacrifice, heroism, death by violence, make the news that pulls the heartstrings of humanity. But in wartime the examples of these are multiplied a thousand times. They become the usual. And so, only the sweep and clash of fleets and armies, in which these things are dramatized en masse, stand out; the tide-turning stand of armies along the Marne or at El Alamein; the entry of another neutral; the thundering guns at Jutland. And of course, to those concerned the casualty lists. "By any standard, the clashes" of fleets and armies must head the list of great news stories of 1900-1950.

But in the 35 years of actual or nominal peace before and between and after the wars, men and women still worked from day to day. They made news. New trends developed. New forces were detected that determined the habits, how they should live and die. New personalities rose like stars, used the trends, the discoveries, the men and women. For peace, and for war.

New Era Opens Months before that winter day on which Victoria died, Lady Smith had been relieved. Kurger had fled to Europe. The United States had ousted Spain from Cuba. The time of small wars, red push and wax fruit was over.

At about this time, a man named Henry Ford, whose father had once given him 40 acres of land to keep him out of machine shops, was thinking of going into business for himself in industrial Detroit. In 1902 he did no. A little later, by accident, he came across a piece of vanadium steel—the thing he needed to build the light strong car he envisioned. So was born the Model-T, and universal use of the automobile.

In 1901 also, two younger men than Ford had set up a small wind-tunnel in a workshop at Dayton, Ohio. There they measured the lift and drag of wind, the position of the centre of pressure on cambered surfaces, the effect when one surface was placed above another. As a result, they turned out a machine equipped with a four-cylinder petrol motor of 12 horsepower. It weighed 750 pounds with the Wright aboard, and at Kitty Hawk, N.C. on Dec. 17, 1903, it left the ground and flew—for 59 seconds at 30 m.p.h.

(It should be noted here that the achievements of Ford, and the many others who pioneered the automobile industry, and of the Wrights and others who believed in the possibility of heavier-than-air flight, were largely made possible by improvements in a gadget with which engineers had been putting for 10 years—the internal combustion engine. A gadget which by "putting the furnace into the cylinder" achieved a ratio of power to weight sufficient to make automotive travel practical.)

In 1901 also, Guglielmo Marconi was getting somewhere with his experiments in electro-magnetic waves. Working for the British Post Office, he had transmitted signals in the Grand Banks of Newfoundland across the Bight Channel from Pictou to Brean Down. On Dec. 12, 1901, he succeeded in communicating across the Atlantic between Poldhu in Cornwall and the odd-looking structure he had erected on Signal Hill, St. John's, Nfld.

(As in the case of Ford and the Wrights, others were concerned in the theory of wireless telegraphy. Others came after Marconi to develop the radio business as we know it. It was he who caught popular imagination with its early commercial application.)

Late on Sunday night, April 14, 1912, bands were playing dance music in the Grand Banks of Newfoundland aboard the biggest ship afloat, speeding on her maiden voyage from Southampton to New York. Passengers felt a slight jolt; the ship ran on, came to a stop, began to list and settle by the head. Hours later, as her engines tore loose and roared down the slant of the "twendecks," she went down—taking 1500 men, women and children.

Deconstruction of the Titanic, the so-called unsinkable, caught the world's imagination as no other single peacetime catastrophe in the half-century. A small thing, compared to the mass slaughter Europe was to know within three years. But the Titanic story was redolent of all the dramas of men, women and children. The sinking, incidentally, quickened by years the general adoption of sea of Signor Marconi's gadget which 11 years before had spattered its faint signals between Cornwall and Newfoundland.

At about this same time in 1912 a man named Vladimir Ilyich Ulyanov Lenin, leader of a split-off section (they called themselves Bolsheviks) of the Russian revolutionary party, was organizing from abroad the publication in St. Petersburg of a new newspaper, called Pravda. Long before this he had formulated his ideas of a so-called "dictatorship of the Proletariat", which culminated Oct. 25, 1917 in bloody revolution, and which today in the version of Joseph Vissarionovich Stalin is the world's chief threat to peace.

At the same time of the October revolution in Russia the disciple of another ideology—although sometime Socialist Benito Mussolini had not yet completed his swings around the political circle to Fascism—was recuperating from a trench-mortar wound and resuming his pre-war work on the newspaper Popolo D'Italia. Five years and five days later—Oct. 30, 1922—as victors in a long running fight between extreme right and extreme left (for power nominally held by a constitutional but futile government) his Fascists seized

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