

THE GUARDIAN

Authorized as Second Class Mail Post Office Department, Ottawa. The Island Guardian Publishing Co. President and Associate Editor, Ian A. Burnett, Associate Editor, Frank Walker. CIRCULATION "Covers Prince Edward Island like the dew" "The strongest memory is weaker than the weakest ink". CHARLOTTETOWN, THURSDAY, MAR. 5, 1953

Man Of Steel

There have long been rumours that the death of the Soviet Prime Minister was precarious but the world, nevertheless, is caught unprepared by the news of his very serious and probably fatal illness. Certainly to other men is so important to so many interests and people as is the Soviet leader. It is probably true to say that no one, unless completely unaware of events, can be indifferent to his precarious hold on life.

Prime Minister Stalin conferred his familiar name upon himself—Stalin, man of steel. The Russian Revolution did not spawn weaklings or sentimentalists. Stalin, certainly, never was either. He rose to power in a world ablaze with fury against ancient wrongs and guided that fury in paths chosen by himself.

To people of the Western tradition he personified the forces striving against tolerance and liberalism but to many, at least until Russia showed her nationalistic colours, he appeared to be the champion of the common man in every part of the world. As time went on he became less and less a leader of class revolt throughout the world and more and more the head of one of the most powerful and certainly rapidly-expanding national states.

In his later career he certainly had far more in common with the greatest of the Czars than with Marx or Lenin. A comparison of maps of successive periods since the thirteenth century shows an almost continuous expansion of Russia's borders. It is only too obvious that Stalin has carried on the tradition and pushed the Soviet Union far into Western Europe and to the farthest East.

This aggrandizement, of course, had its reaction and future historians may well credit Stalin with being the real unifier of the Atlantic Community and the wider brotherhood of the United Nations. The man of steel may have been the hammer by which a real world community has been wrought.

The immediate problem created by his probably fatal illness is interregnum. Internal and external tensions must be at a high pitch and continue so until the great Soviet system again reaches some equilibrium of power.

Fresh Fish Markets

The Federal Department of Fisheries announces reassuringly that the slump in United States markets for fresh fish is mainly seasonal, and recovery of the market is predicted. The situation, however, would seem to call for more aggressive sales organization operating in a wider field in the United States. The possibility of securing other markets, for instance, in the Argentine Republic where a change from the staple meat diet to fish might not be unwelcome, would also be worth investigation.

In the circumstances, the tariff changes announced in the Federal Budget on fishery requirements will be particularly welcome. The Budget announced that the tariff on engines and complete parts imported from Great Britain, the United States and other countries enjoying the most favoured nations' tariff was completely eliminated, and on those imported from other countries on the general tariff list, reduced to 15 per cent. Previously the rate ranged from free to 15 per cent on British engines, 12 1/2 to 20 per cent on American engines and those from other countries on the most favored nations' list. On wire rope or cable, either coated or uncoated, which is used exclusively in commercial fishing operations, the tariff on imports from Britain was reduced to free from 15 per cent, on imports from the United States and other most favored nation countries, to 10 per cent from 25 per cent.

Sales in the American markets are said to have diminished because, with a drop in the prices of beef and pork, consumers are buying that product in preference to filets of fish. Another factor is the large export from Norway and Iceland. The latter had previously marketed a considerable proportion of its catch in the United Kingdom, but, pending a settlement of the dispute arising from Iceland's banning British fishermen from certain waters off the Icelandic coast, Icelandic fishermen have not been allowed to land their catches in British ports.

Weather Ships

A meeting to extend the present agreement which maintains 25 ships on weather patrol in the North Atlantic Ocean has been called by the International Civil Aviation Organization for Brighton, England, on 8 July. Invited to the meeting are the fourteen nations which are participating in the 1949 agreement on North Atlantic Ocean Weather Stations, and six others whose airlines fly, or intend to fly in the near future, across the North Atlantic.

There are now ten floating ocean stations in the North Atlantic, manned by 25 ships, reports I.C.A.O.; depending upon the station's distance from the shore base, between two and three ships are required to keep each one fully manned. In addition to closing an important gap in the weather reporting network that keeps aircraft flying safely between Europe and North America, the stations provide aircraft with navigational aid, and serve as communications relay points and search and rescue bases. The ocean station program is a part of the I.C.A.O. "Joint Support" system, by which essential air navigation facilities in regions of the world where sovereignty is uncertain or where populations are sparse are provided or paid for by a consortium of I.C.A.O. member nations whose airlines make use of the facilities; the original ocean station agreement was signed in 1946, and modified, as a result of operational experience gained, in 1949.

Cost of the joint support program is distributed among the participants on the basis of the amount of use each country's airlines make of the facilities supplied. The 25 ships are provided by six nations and eight others make cash payments.

EDITORIAL NOTES

The recent weakness of the potato market has caused the P. E. I. Potato Marketing Board to reduce minimum prices on Tuesday, a ruling which was made retroactive to February 18th. The move would seem to acknowledge the wisdom of the dealers' contentions.

A warning against anything which interferes with clear vision, particularly at night, has been issued by the Night Visibility Committee of the Maritime Automobile Association. Clear corrective spectacles and glare reducing systems, such as polarized headlamps and windshields (or viewers), where reductions in visual efficiency are taken into account in the design of the headlamp are specifically excepted from the committee's condemnation.

Gaston Bruno Paulin Paris, French scholar, died this date 1903. He succeeded his father as professor of medieval French literature but he is remembered for largely causing the revival of scientific study in France. He had pupils and collaborators throughout the world whom he charged: "Science has no other object than truth. He who allows himself the slightest dissimulation, the lightest change—by whatever motive, patriotic, religious or even moral—is not worthy of his place in this great laboratory, where integrity is more indispensable than ability as the right of entry."

Climaxing more than two years, of engineering and planning, the new nationwide toll dialling plan is scheduled to go into operation in Toronto and Montreal in the spring of 1955 and 1956, respectively. In its conception, toll or long distance dialling envisions some 50,000,000 telephones on the North American continent, any one of which can be connected to any other without benefit of operator, simply by dialing one of a combination of 10 digits. Under this system, it will be as easy to dial your daughter in Los Angeles or your son in Goose Bay as it is to call the local grocer.

"That butterflies have a definite ability to keep to a fixed compass direction strikes every observer," reports C. B. Williams speaking in a BBC programme about the migration of butterflies. "If they come to an obstacle they prefer to fly over it rather than round—if they are diverted they'll resume the correct direction at the first opportunity. I've seen white butterflies on migration in Tanganyika beat themselves against the wall of my house, which stood directly in their path, rather than deviate to the left or right—and finally they flew over the roof. When they came to a small tree (rather of the shape of a Lombardy Poplar) they would go up to the top and down the other side, in preference to going a few feet round. Migrating butterflies have been known to fly into a room through the windows on one side and out of the windows on the other side. It is beyond all doubt that they have, at the time of migration, a definite urge and an ability to travel in a more or less fixed direction."

The Guilty Party



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.

THE CRISIS IN TEACHING

Sir,—An article in a recent issue of a national magazine has urged me to write this letter. I taught for some years in an ungraded primary school and my experience has given me a great regard for teachers and for the profession, as one with no equal. The said article written at the instance of the magazine publisher after four months' careful survey, is truly startling revelation of the teacher situation in Canada, a situation that is heavily shared by this Province. Already 11,000 trained teachers have left the schools and at the present trend, by 1955 25,000 will have left. At present 11,000 substitute teachers are employed, and most of them poorly trained, some not trained at all. Many are young and irresponsible girls; one, for example, a sixteen year old girl who reads love stories in school hours, and when duty interferes with her dates closes her school. Many old men and women are pressed into service, one man 87 and had not taught for 30 years. Some inspectors say it would be better if some of the schools were closed. However, the majority of teachers still in the schools are trained and doing good work. The reasons for this very disappointing exodus of teachers, and the most of them trained and good teachers, are not far to seek. For one reason and another teachers are not held in as kindly and sympathetic regard, as they should be. They are doing the greatest job on earth; and a good teacher is by all odds the most deserving of respect of any in the community. Of course, I believe the trained, wise and good teacher will always be respected. Such a teacher is a gem and should be prized by the community. But, generally, they are not held in regard as they should be. Parents generally do not realize what a difficult business teaching is, the skills, the tact, the patience it takes. How many parents would like to swap places with their teachers?

Salary is the great problem in this teaching crisis. Teachers can't live on fresh air any better than any one else. This last summer I have done some hiring and I always pay, at least, 50 cents per hour, and a school boy 40 cents. An expert carpenter \$1.00 an hour.

Old Charlottetown

(And P. E. I.) CITY GUARDS In 1856 an Infantry Corps of Volunteers was formed under the command of Captain Neil Rankin, Lieutenants John Lee and J. J. Rice, designated "City Guards". They wore uniforms of blue with facings of scarlet, while their arms were short rifles and accoutrements black. At the opening of the Legislature in 1857, they formed a guard of honor to His Excellency Governor Daly in front of the Colonial Building; this being the first military display in the city since the departure of the Regulars three years previously. The last service rendered by the City Guards was at the opening of the Legislature in 1859 when they formed the guard of honour in front of the Colonial Building. In April the commanding officer, Captain Rankin, assembled the men together and informed them that he wished to disband and requested the delivery of all arms and accoutrements. Soon a more extended military organization became general throughout the British Provinces. (Captain Neil Rankin, mentioned above was the father of Mrs. A. A. Bartlett, and Lieutenant John Lee was the father of Mrs. E. S. Blanchard. Both of these ladies reside in Charlottetown.)

The Age-Old Story

And Jesus went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, and preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing all manner of sickness and all manner of disease among the people.

FROM THE SONG OF HONOUR

I climbed a hill as light fell short, And rooks came home in scramble sort, And filled the trees and flapped and fought, And sang themselves to sleep; An owl from nowhere with no sound Swung by and soon was nowhere found, I heard him calling half-way round, Hollowing loud and deep; A pair of stars, faint pins of light, Then many a star, sailed into sight, And all the stars, the flower of night, Were round me at a leap; To tell how still the valleys lay I heard a watchdog miles away, And bells of distant sheep. I heard it all, each every note, Of every lung and tongue and throat, Ah, every rhythm and rhyme Of every thing that lives and loves And upward, ever upward moves From lowly to sublime! Earth's multitudinous Sons of Light, I heard them lift their lyric might With each and every chanting spirit, That lit the sky that wondrous night, As far as eye could climb!

I heard it all, I heard the whole Harmonious hymn of being roll Up through the chapel of my soul And at the altar die; And in the awful quiet then Myself I heard, Amen, Amen, Amen I heard me cry! I heard it all and the although I caught my flying senses, Oh, A dizzy man was I! I stood and stared; the sky was lit, The sky was stars all over it, I stood, I knew not why, Without a wish, without a will, I stood upon that silent hill And stared into the sky until My eyes were blind with stars and still I stared into the sky.

—Ralph Hodgson.

TEACHER SHORTAGE

Sir,—This being Education Week, we must consider all angles of education. Not only must we consider teacher-pupil-parent relationships and the curriculum but the teachers, as individuals, should first be considered. This individual, who is often shoved into the background, should be the first point of interest in the analysis of the present day mode of education. As many people know, P.E.I. and Canada in general have a serious teacher shortage which is being further hampered by the present teachers selecting new jobs instead of teaching as a profession.

There are many reasons why we are faced with a teacher shortage. For one thing there is the constant teacher-parent conflict which is sometimes a "cold war" carried on through the parents' ambassadors, the children. The teacher has no ambassadors and has to face it and warm up the conflict by talks with the parents, which, if the parties concerned are not sensible may turn into a real row. Another major point of discouragement is the salary. One of the first things people do when looking for a job is to note the salary. Teaching, as a profession in which

The Poet's Corner

FROM THE SONG OF HONOUR I climbed a hill as light fell short, And rooks came home in scramble sort, And filled the trees and flapped and fought, And sang themselves to sleep; An owl from nowhere with no sound Swung by and soon was nowhere found, I heard him calling half-way round, Hollowing loud and deep; A pair of stars, faint pins of light, Then many a star, sailed into sight, And all the stars, the flower of night, Were round me at a leap; To tell how still the valleys lay I heard a watchdog miles away, And bells of distant sheep. I heard it all, each every note, Of every lung and tongue and throat, Ah, every rhythm and rhyme Of every thing that lives and loves And upward, ever upward moves From lowly to sublime! Earth's multitudinous Sons of Light, I heard them lift their lyric might With each and every chanting spirit, That lit the sky that wondrous night, As far as eye could climb!

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The Passing Scene

By Observer JOME THOUGHTS ON THE SPELLING BILL

A news report says that the British Parliament is currently debating a bill that provides for a "phonetic spelling of the English language." This I take to be one more substantiation of the war-borne slogan, "There'll always be an England!" Any people who can take their minds off such things as war, floods, dollar shortages, and red deans long enough to debate whether or not the little word "one" should be spelled as it is pronounced are not likely to leave the world's stage for a long, long time to come.

We are told that the "Spelling Bill" is a private one, and a Labour one at that. It is not likely, therefore, that it will get very far, and it is almost certain that the Queen will never be asked to sign it. The amazing thing is that it got past the first formal reading without being wrecked in the sea of English conservatism. There was a time when the King's English tinkering with the King's English (it's the Queen's now, of course) would have been regarded as high treason. Now, apparently, anybody can indulge in such pastime, with impunity. Times have certainly changed.

It is well to remember, however, that of all the things in human experience, none is more changeable than language. No one seems to know exactly the origin of language, although most philologists believe, take the view that it was a direct product of human nature in answer to the quite obvious necessity for communication among members of the first primitive communities. The one thing that is plain is that language has never stopped growing. It is never a finished system.

New conditions, such for example as the great migrations of European and Asiatic peoples, have started new dialects which at first were very crude and uncultured. After centuries of use and change, they have become separate and distinct languages.

A very good example of this growth in language is seen in the various groups of French-Canadians who during the past hundred years or more have moved to the mill towns of New England. They, of course, took their Quebec language with them. Today, however, the descendants of the first emigrants from Quebec speak a dialect that is often strange and sometimes altogether unintelligible to newcomers from French Canada. What has happened is that during the years new words have been added, some of the old French has been mixed with the English of the new environment (not to be added), and so a new dialect has gradually evolved. In another three or four hundred years it will probably have taken on the importance of a separate language.

As compared to other jobs, some people think a teacher gets about \$1300 for 200 days but I would like to point out that weekends and holidays have to be considered as part of the job. One cannot get work at these times and therefore a teacher's year is a twelve month job which, at \$1,300 minus about \$300 for board and expenses would leave the poor, poverty stricken teacher with about \$274 per day. No fear of income tax here!

It may be asked how the Government can afford to pay the lowly teachers any more. But can any government afford not to have its future generation educated properly so that the world will have a better chance to prosper in peace?

I am, Sir, etc. PROSPECTIVE TEACHER, Charlottetown.

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