

Red Shield Appeal

The Red Shield of the Salvation Army is a welcome symbol to countless people weary from life's struggle. To old and young, at home or abroad, the insignia of the "Army" means that there is friendly help at hand, practical assistance suited to the needs of those whose defences are badly in need of strengthening. It would take a book even to list the variety of the Salvation Army's services to all conditions of people.

The Provincial Red Shield and Sunset Lodge Campaign has already got under way under the chairmanship of Mr. Norman W. Lowther, Q.C. The Charlottetown public canvas begins Friday, the chairman being Arthur G. Hogan and Russell Seller. The city and Province have always generously supported the work of the Salvation Army and will undoubtedly do so at this time.

For those regular contributors who year after year can be depended upon to make their donation it may not be out of order to point out that if they have not revised their scale of giving in the last few years it may well be less than they really intend to give. It is not always realized that costs today are high for social work as they are well known to be for private living.

Most people would like to give when and how it will do the most good. They can be sure that their intentions will be carried out with zeal and understanding by the dedicated "Army."

Valuable Service

A recent release by the National Research Council of Canada reveals that scholarships amounting in value to \$283,200 have been granted to 236 Canadians for specialized studies in scientific fields. In all 37 special awards were granted for overseas study. These scholarships emphasize one of the many lines of endeavor in which the Council is making its impact felt on the national scene. Last year, for example, it provided \$2 millions for the support of fundamental research in universities.

The National Research Council, composed of twenty leading citizens representing all parts of the nation and many interests, was established to promote research for improved use of Canadian raw materials. Initially it sought only to train scientists who could work out solutions to national industrial problems, but it now has expanded to the stage where it provides two regional laboratories for sectional problems (one at Saskatoon, the other at Halifax), along with investigation of specific national problems, pure and applied research, and the provision of a consulting laboratory service for industry.

The Council's interests cover the specialized field of chemistry, physics, engineering and medical research. This work is almost invariably of a nature which most industrial concerns cannot tackle, lacking both the financial and technical equipment which is at the disposal of the Council.

How It Happened

It is announced at Ottawa that the Federal Department of Defence Production is to be made a permanent department of Government. The Act under which the present Department operates is a temporary one and expires in 1956. Unless there is a very large and unlooked for reduction in defence expenditures—now running at some \$2,000 millions per year—this temporary statute will be replaced by a permanent one.

It will not generally be appreciated, says the Winnipeg Free Press, but it is a fact that the purchase of defence supplies by business men rather than military men is due entirely to the Bren Gun controversy. In the years immediately preceding the recent war the National Defence Department, through the Ordnance Branch, did all its own buying. The responsibility for expenditures on war equipment and armaments rested wholly with the armed services.

The first Bren Gun contract, awarded by the Defence Department in the late 1930's was so manifestly extravagant that a number of publications publicly denounced it. A major controversy developed, ending in the appointment of a Royal Commission. The report of the late Mr. Justice Davis of the Supreme Court of Canada, who conducted the investigation,

is responsible for the complete separation of defence purchasing from the armed services. This was his major recommendation and it was acted upon in 1939 by the appointment of a purchasing commission to buy for all three armed services. In the first year of the war, this commission was converted into a Department of Government, with Rt. Hon. C. D. Howe in charge. After the war, when there seemed a prospect of real peace, the Federal Government continued civilian buying on a temporary footing. The Department remained in existence but the statute creating it put a limit to its life. Now apparently the limitation is to be removed—a consequence of the refusal of the Communists to allow this world to settle down to peace and happiness.

Thus the decision taken in the Bren Gun inquiry has never been reversed. Our defence purchasing continues and will continue to be done entirely by civilians. It is a curious fact that the importance of Mr. Justice Davis' recommendation was not generally recognized at the time he made his report. But in retrospect it will be recognized as one of the major reforms in government achieved in the past half century.

A Sad Story

Charles Lagon is a schoolteacher in a small town in Northern France. His neighbours refer to him as "the saint" because of his easygoing, pious, and charitable ways. He never becomes angry nor even annoyed at the sometimes obstreperous moods of his pupils; the only punishment he hands out, even for the most unruly boys, is line-writing which, as every teacher knows, is the most ineffective of all disciplinary measures. The youngsters under his care are convinced that M. Lagon is the very best teacher in the world; their parents, however, take a somewhat different attitude. In fact, according to an item in the London Daily Express, parental indignation at the teacher's saintliness has reached the point where his license is in grave danger of being revoked.

The principal charge against M. Lagon is that under his saintly supervision, unaccompanied by any sort of control, ten-year-old youngsters cannot even read or write. This is a sad, sad story, whichever way one looks at it. For the pupils it almost certainly will mean a change from carefree status to one in which they will have scarcely an untroubled moment; for, ten chances to one, the new teacher will be everything the present one is not. For the parents it will mean troubled consciences; for they know in their hearts that they have participated in aggression against a kind-hearted man. For M. Lagon himself it will mean disillusionment and it might possibly bring about a radical change in his character; for, he might argue, if over-kindness is to be considered a disqualification for the office of a teacher, why not cultivate a hard, overbearing, dictatorial manner? Yes, it's a sad, sad story.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Nova Scotia seems to be not the only Province which has simple minded moose. In New Brunswick a new foghorn has replaced another at Partridge Island at the mouth of the St. John River and it is reported that local moose have been seen standing on the beaches answering the signals.

The Maritime Transportation Commission is asking extension of the terms of a Royal Commission to investigate the operation of "agreed charge" contracts between railways and shippers. In the past these special rates have worked wholly against Island shippers but at the present time the Potato Marketing Board enjoys the benefit of such an agreement on potatoes moved to Ontario and Quebec.

Swinging on their regular orbits, Mars and Earth are racing towards a passing point, or "opposition" as astronomers call it. On July 2nd they will be at their closest since 1941. An International Mars Committee, organized last fall, will co-ordinate the observations made by large numbers of institutions and scientists. There will be an even closer approach in 1956 and then no such opportunity for close study until 1971.

Dr. Eduard Benes, Czech statesman, was born this date 1884. A teacher, he fled from Bohemia at the beginning of the First World War and with Masaryk and General Stefanik founded the Czechoslovak National Council. He represented the Council at the Peace Conference, was first Foreign Secretary of the new republic and succeeded Masaryk as President. He resigned after Munich but in 1940 was recognized as head of the Government in Exile. He returned to power in 1945. He was compelled to recognize a Communist Government the following year but resigned the presidency in 1948.



The Uninitiated

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.

POTATO MARKETING

Sir.—For a few days I have been picking up some facts regarding the selling of potatoes cooperatively by the P. E. Island farmers through the Potato Marketing Board or falling back to using the methods of grandfather's day. It reminds me of a man building a house and bringing his family in while only half finished. They may find it colder than the old one and some doctor bills have to be paid, but why tear the house down? It has a solid foundation built by trusty and competent workmen. The roof is tight and the windows give you a cheerful outlook.

All through history, beginning with Moses who led the slaves out of Egypt, the cry has gone up: Why not have left us where we were? Grandfather's human nature was the same as many today. He sold stale and dirty eggs as well as good ones at the same price, rancid butter. What a fight had to be waged to bring us a better day!

The consumer's co-op stores do not make anyone rich, but they pay a small dividend. It shows that the farmers now are quite educated in business practice and surely know how to find markets. Another slogan was, "Oh if we would only stick together". So stick together. By so doing farmers have a floor price that will avoid the necessity of selling a bag of potatoes to this writer for less than eighty cents or one dollar.

I am, Sir, etc. CONSUMER Kensington.

The Poet's Corner

AS I SAT A-FISHING

This day Dame Nature seemed to love; The lusty stag began to move; Fresh juice did stir th' embracing vine; And birds had drawn their valentines; The jealous trout that low did lie; Rose at the well-dissembled fly; There stood my friend, with patient skill Attending of the trembling quill, Already were the eaves posset; With the swift pilgrim's daubed nest; The groves already did rejoice; In Phileas' triumphant voice; The showers were short, the weather mild; The morning fresh, the evening smiled.

—Sir Henry Wotton (1568-1639)

The Age Old Story

The glory of the Lord shall endure for ever: the Lord shall rejoice in his works... I will sing unto the Lord as long as I live; I will sing praise to my God while I have my being.

Salving Crofts

(From the Weekly Scotman)

Is the crofting way of life worth preserving? The Taylor Commission, whose comprehensive and lucid report has just been published, were not obliged to answer that question, but they record their conviction that the crofting communities which maintain a precarious existence on the Atlantic fringe of our industrial society are worth salving. Like the Napier Commission of 1884, they want to preserve a free and independent way of living for individuals, while they remind us that the Highlands are a nursery of seamen who serve the State well in time of war.

It is no longer possible to regard the crofting counties as a reservoir of man-power for bringing fresh energy to the industrial towns of the South. We are aware now that depopulation is the wasting disease that must be combated in the Highlands.

Assuming that the crofting system should be preserved for the sake of the crofters and of the nation as a whole, which needs to increase the amount of home-produced food, the question is what remedies should be applied. It is customary to speak in gloomy terms of the prospects of crofting, and the report takes a serious view of the present situation. We are told that crofting is "fighting a losing battle against the social and economic forces of the day."

There is no need to quarrel with this finding, as it is no doubt broadly true, but at the same time the extreme diversity of conditions in the crofting counties must be kept in mind. It is in the North-West that moribund crofting communities are most common. In Orkney and the Black Isle, on the other hand, the smallholders are prosperous and enterprising.

There is, in fact, no crofting problem, but an almost infinite number of problems which vary from one township to another according to geography, accessibility to railways and steamers, the state of the roads, the quality of the soil and rough grazing.

The Commission were, of course, fully conscious that they had to prescribe for a multitude of troubles, and for this reason they have, perhaps wisely, pinned their faith to administrative action rather than to the enactment of more crofter legislation. Their chief recommendation is that the Crofters Commission should be revived, though with extended powers. The interests of the crofters, the report declares, "will not be properly cared for until an administrative organ to deal with them alone is created and endowed with adequate financial and executive powers."

A considerable amount of financial assistance under one Government scheme or another is available for crofters who want to improve their homes and lands, but crofting communities are sometimes not aware of the extent of benefits proffered by the State or too apathetic to take advantage of them. The Crofters Commission would, it is hoped, supply the necessary advice and stimulus.

An active, imaginative, and sympathetic body could do much to revive the flagging spirits of crofters by bringing to their notice the findings of agricultural re-

Old Charlottetown

and P. E. I. DEFENSE PRECAUTIONS

For the better security of the Colony in the early days of wars and rumors of war, the Legislature at its sitting in 1800 passed an Act requiring all male persons between the ages of sixteen and sixty, residing in this Island, to bear arms and attend muster and military exercises in the companies in which they should be enrolled.

This Act also provided that any alarm given in case of an invasion should be made by setting fire or lighting a beacon at the summit of the hill on Queen Street, in Charlottetown, and by firing two guns at Patterson's Battery and also two guns at Tartar's Wharf, and all officers and soldiers and other persons able to bear arms should appear complete with their arms and ammunition according to the directions of the Act.

Until recently this Act could still be found in the Revised Statutes of this Province and the summit of the hill on Queen Street (at the Bank of Commerce corner) remains intact; but it might be difficult to find Patterson's Battery or Tartar's wharf, which were the principal military stations at that time.

—From an article by the late Mr. Henry Smith.

search and by providing, when necessary, capital for applying new ideas. Ever since the Commission began their inquiries, something has been done by the Department of Agriculture to improve the technical education of crofters by appointing more agricultural advisers and by arranging demonstrations of crop and livestock management.

Among the manifold duties of a Crofters Commission, none would be more important than the supervision of letting. It is well known that tenants of crofts in the Highlands may be policemen in Glasgow or even farmers in Australia. Business men may acquire crofts for a week-end or holiday residence, qualify for State grants for the improvement of houses on the crofts, and pay nothing or a negligible amount in rates.

How commonly the abuse prevails is not exactly known, but it is certainly serious enough to demand corrective measures. The land may not be wholly neglected by absentee crofters, but it cannot be properly cultivated, and this state of affairs is intolerable when most active crofters would welcome an enlargement of their holdings.

The Taylor report proposes to cut out the deadwood by giving the Crofters Commission power to dispossess non-resident crofters and to re-allocate holdings. This is probably the best way of attacking the abuse, as absenteeism could not be exactly defined and so prevented by legislation. It may be argued that security of tenure, which was a valuable reform when it was introduced in 1886, should be extended to nominal crofters, as has been done through judicial interpretation of the Crofters Acts.

Since the famous Napier report of 1884, the lot of individual crofters has improved through absolute security, and in recent years

NOTES BY THE WAY

It probably won't be long before the pilot of a jet plane flying west will have to have a watch that runs backwards. — Kingston Whig-Standard.

Give credit to the drive-in theatre. It's a safe place for people to sit behind the wheel and not think. — Kingston Whig-Standard.

Just remember, when you turn green with envy you are ripe for trouble. — St. Catharines Standard.

I am quite convinced that one of the chief reasons why British people are such determined globe-trotters is because of the family mantelpiece, upon whose assembled relics of many lands they gaze with rapture when they were children—Pearl Binder, talking on BBC "Woman's Hour."

If punctuality is an attitude of mind, so is unpunctuality, and it can be corrected by discipline. The effort is worth while. Very often unpunctuality is a sign of bad manners. To make an appointment with a person and then to arrive late and without adequate excuse is to show that person that one considers his time of no value. To arrive late at a public function—lecture, concert or play—and to force one's way among those already seated is to show complete disregard for their enjoyment and the unwelcome attention and the verdict of being ill-mannered. —Hamilton Spectator.

It may be unwritten but there is a rule of the sidewalk. It is kept to the right. Where this is understood pedestrians can move at its side in a rush hours on the busiest streets of a community. Where it is not followed foot traffic becomes snarled. People old and young, dodge each other; stop, hesitate, turn, and start forward only to collide again. Other knots of people may stand in the centre of the way talking. A boy may run against the traffic knocking parcels to the pavement. Confusion results. There is no reason why anything of the kind should happen. There is a rule of the sidewalk. It is to keep to the right. — Victoria Colonist.

Dr. T. D. Northwood, acoustics expert from the National Research Council at Ottawa, advocates the construction of sound-proof apartment houses in Canada. Speaking before the annual assembly of

through the general encouragement of farming by State assistance. But it is disappointing that the crofting system is in so parlous a condition, and that so little has been done to carry out the recommendations of the Napier report, which urged that holdings should be enlarged. To-day there are about as many crofts as there were 70 years ago, although holdings are often far too small to be efficiently and profitably cultivated.

It is essential to make better use of the land, and the Taylor report suggests practicable methods of transferring the holdings of non-resident and aged crofters to active cultivators, without doing injustice to present tenants.

Other measures are needed for restoring health to decaying communities, such as the provision of more part-time employment, better roads and water supplies, and lower transport charges. The Forestry Commission, it may be noted, are vigorously enjoined to undertake planting in the North-West. And, while leadership and aid may come from outside, the crofting communities have an inescapable duty to help themselves by more active co-operation.

the Royal Architectural Institute of Canada, Dr. Northwood said adequate insulation could be built into apartment houses at very low costs, and would result in only a slight rent increase. If this is so there might be a very good argument for compulsory adequate insulation. Some apartments recently built are a disgrace. They do not provide peace or privacy. There is enough noise in the cities now without adding the constant irritation of all the domestic noises that resound endlessly in some apartments—London Free Press.

The American Medical Association says that a woman has better than 999 chances out of 1,000 of coming through childbirth safely today. Her chances of surviving are eight times better than were her mother's. Twenty years ago the prediction of 999 out of 1,000 was made and got a big laugh. But don't laugh at science, nor the technical ability to improve such things as hospitals and delivery facilities. The A.M.A. claims no credit for such improvement, but the A.M.A. can remind that only in a free atmosphere of medicine is such an improvement likely. In any field, the stimulus for improving is in direct proportion to the freedom of the improver. In brief, under socialized medicine you do not have 999 out of 1,000. — Dallas Morning News.

A twenty-five-year old medical student at St. Mary's Hospital, London, Roger Bannister, the first man to break the four-minute mile, will fully qualify for his doctor's degree within a matter of weeks. He stands well over six feet and weighs only 154 pounds. His long legs give him a stride which has enabled him to become the fastest miler of the century. Medical training has given Bannister a knowledge of how to best use his resources. He also has an exceptionally slow heart which beats only forty times each minute in comparison with the normal man's seventy-two beats. At the end of the race in which he broke the record last Thursday, his heart was racing at 155 per minute. — U. K. Information.

Communists are not usually given to gallantry but we can give them a little credit for their treatment of Lieut. Genevieve de Galard-Terraupe, the heroic French nurse who tended the wounded during the last terrible days in Dien Bien Phu. She has been released, unharmed, and has taken her release to safety and comfort with the same calm as she displayed while the battle raged above the rough shelters in which she stood by the wounded. Heromism by nurses is no new thing. The military nurse accepts risk as part of the job and volunteers for duty; but she is not often subjected to siege and the need for nursing in the front line itself, with battle waging back and forth overhead. Breakdown would be understandable in these circumstances. It is part of Miss Galard-Terraupe's heroism that she did not break down but shared her own diminishing strength with the wounded. — Montreal Star.

BURNED IN FREAK MISHAP

ST. CATHARINES, Ont. (CP)—John M. Henricks, 59, suffered severe burns to the face in a freak accident Monday night. Police said Henricks blew into the gas tank of his car to clear a clogged line. The pressure forced gas out over his clothing. Then his gas-soaked clothing ignited as he bent over a portable stove being used to heat a baby's bottle by the side of the road.

Advertisement for Queen Hotel featuring a cartoon character and the text 'WOW! You'll be dazzled too by the fine new rooms at... The Queen Hotel Moncton, N. B. LIVE LIKE A KING AT THE QUEEN MONCTON'S MOST POPULAR QUIET AND CENTRAL'

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