

THE GUARDIAN

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The Times Acquitted

A judge at the Central Criminal Court, more familiarly the Old Bailey, has cleared the London "Times" of a charge of corrupt election practices. In taking the case from the jury on the ground that there was no evidence of an intention to affect the chances of election of any particular candidate, the learned judge cast into legal discard a very large part of the territory seemingly taken in by the 1949 enactment prohibiting the spending of money to affect the result of any election, except by candidates and their parties.

The decision leaves the Labour Government's legislation as prohibiting only the spending of money to affect the result in a particular contest between opposing candidates. There is little doubt but that should occasion require, the courts would yet further restrict the operation of the astonishing electoral law which seems designed to prevent information leaking out when it might be most serious for the Government of the day. The whole tradition of British justice is to give no wider interpretation to legislation creating criminal offences than is required by the most strict reading of the statute.

Telling Them

According to the Financial Post the Rt. Hon. C. D. Howe has been "talking turkey" to other Atlantic nations, including the Mother Country. There was a good punch line in his recent address before the Vancouver Board of Trade. It was his tactfully worded intimation that other countries which look so urgently to Canada as a source of supplies in their current emergencies would be expected to continue to provide reasonably dependable markets during more normal times. "Canada," he stated, "is not to be considered simply as a residential source of supply during critical times, and then forgotten when the crisis has blown over." Now, if this principle were merely translated into firm government policy, it would be sweet music, indeed, for Canadian producers, whose foreign markets have so often been subjected to unpredictable vagaries beyond the normal factor of supply and demand. It is not as if Canada were reluctant to reciprocate. This country has a good record of being ready to buy abroad; but it does not seem to get much co-operation in return, once the crisis of whatever nature it may be from time to time, has passed away.

New Plants For Canada

Some thirteen European industrial concerns are looking for suitable plant locations in Canada, according to an article in the February issue of Canadian Business magazine. Many of the companies are located in Holland with others in Belgium, Austria and Germany. The projected branch plants in Canada would employ anywhere from 20 to 200 persons according to the size, it is stated.

A number of the companies which are investigating Canadian locations are textile firms but also included are manufacturers of machinery, heating equipment, paper, and other products. Most of the companies would bring their own plant equipment and key staff members but, according to Henry Catleen the writer, most of the firms need working capital.

Soviet Farming

An overseas report jointly issued by the Departments of Agriculture and Trade and Commerce at Ottawa, and prepared by Dr. E. Jaska, now of the Economics Division and formerly an official of the Estonian Department of Agriculture, states that in 1950 Soviet Russia merged more than half of its collective farms into "collective farm settlements." These each contain approximately 30,250 acres, of which about 18,500 should be arable, and also 1,000 head of cattle, 8,000 sheep, 280 horses and 400 hogs. Each will contain from 500 to a few thousand families. The aim is said to be a high level of production ensuring a build-up of reserves and the saving of workers for other tasks. Dr. Jaska writes that "the manpower problem appears to be the more important, since the collective farms, which have always been regarded as reservoirs of manpower, are to be mechanized at an

increasing rate in order to make a greater part of the farming population available to industry."

The Soviet Union reduced prices in 1950 and 1951, the most important reductions occurring in 1951 and concerning food. Bread, flour and similar products were cut 15 per cent, as well as all types of meat, while milk, ice cream and eggs were cut by ten per cent. In this connection, Dr. Jaska writes: "It should be remembered that two-thirds of the population consists of collective farmers who have to bear the burden of financing the Soviet economy. According to official pre-war data, 60 per cent of the state revenues was drawn from the turnover tax, and over 70 per cent of this tax was derived from agriculture. In 1950, the contribution provided by agriculture was about the same as pre-war. . . The income of farmers will be reduced by seven billion rubles in 1951. . . The government's price-cut policy has thus added additional weight to the massive burden borne by farmers in 1951. In addition, the cuts may be considered as a means to lessen the farmer's interest in maintaining individual plots."

EDITORIAL NOTES

Memories will have to go back a good few years to recall a severer, and such a long continued storm as we have experienced this week. But there were others, and we survived them.

The Speech from the Throne is less and less a precise forecast of Government legislation. Nowadays members find themselves well into a session before gaining any clear idea of what the Government proposes to do in many fields.

British scientists, according to T. D. F. in the Ottawa Citizen, are trying to figure out "why dogs' claws grow faster in the Antarctic." After that they might turn to why fingernails grow faster at potato digging time.

Nicolai Vasilievitch Gogol, Russian author, died one hundred years ago today. He early produced two series of stories and sketches depicting the life of Little Russia with great truth and vigour. Love of nature and of the supernatural, humour, pathos and descriptive power characterize his many tales, many of which were translated into English.

"Getting away with it" is what leads to a spread of dishonesty in the public service. The bribing of Canadian Government officials by prospective European emigrants is nothing new but is very hard to uncover. Neither the giver nor the receiver of bribes is likely to talk, and for the most part the authorities must depend upon the emigrants squealing and circumstantial evidence to obtain convictions.

Closer understanding between our civic authorities and Trade Board members is to be welcomed. Tomorrow night's Board meeting, at which the Mayor and Councilors are to be special guests, and at which Mr. Norman A. Hesler, past president of the Canadian Manufacturers Association will speak, should serve to promote this desirable objective.

No country today can look with complete satisfaction on the record of its foreign policy but France seems to have had one consistently out of step. When Germany had a Government favourable to France, France spurned it, when anti-French elements assumed power, France felt obliged to yield on points previously refused.

Summerside Legionnaires are understandably puzzled about how the Prince County Hospital is to be reinstated in the good graces of D. V. A. The president of the hospital board wrote undertaking to see that if veterans were permitted to use the hospital, reports would be dealt with promptly, but the Department in an answering letter indicated that the ban "cannot be rescinded until such time as returns to this office prove more satisfactory." Stalemate.

Both Nova Scotia and New Brunswick Legislatures have opened for their annual sessions. Neither has yet concluded negotiations with the Federal Government for renewal of the tax rental agreement, but the former seems assured of satisfactory arrangement because it plans increasing grants to municipalities. Both are faced with teacher salary disputes, but evidently are leaving it for the County Councils to handle the question, they and the respective parish authorities being the parties directly concerned. In all likelihood the teachers will secure increases and our Legislature will have to be prepared to follow suit.

Knocking The Poetry Out Of It



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.

ON LEAVING THE FARM

Sir - This subject has been dealt with in the "Public Forum" and deserves that time and space be given to it. To come quickly to the point I do not think that meagre or small financial returns are chief cause of the exodus. For the writer can testify that this restlessness is just a craving for adventure. A young man wishes to see the world, finds the old life monotonous and thinks there would be more excitement in building up a fortune under other skies: just to follow on where Dad left off sounds too tame.

But we older ones have learned something. One is that the best adventure can be found near home. Farming is just coming into its own. The tillers of the soil from now on will have more say as to what price they will get for their toil. We know this because we see the young men organizing all over our Dominion. We know about the "Farm Forums" and Calf Clubs. The spirit of cooperation is in the country air. And there is adventure in this. Even the girls are making things interesting by carrying off honors in stock judging or exhibiting animals they have raised.

But not wishing to talk "shop" all the time, there is adventure to be found in planning a countryside and enjoying it. And I would say that it is quite an accomplishment to know that all have had a good time without stimulants.

Why, it's an adventure to follow your church in its program. In it we learn that "we get through living." "He that saves his life shall lose it." It is an adventure to act as stewards of time and means, taking no more for ourselves than what belongs to us.

The country has always produced the "salt" that preserves society. May it continue to do so.

In discussing this subject of the exodus from the land I have in mind maybe 100 school districts out of the 400 in the Province, where, if you go, among the people you will find them educated and conversant on every subject of local or world interest, except agriculture.

The children growing up will hear about politics, church matters, grading in school, entering Prince of Wales College or St. Dunstan's, which boy will study medicine, law, but they never run out the car to visit our own Dominion Experimental Farm, or field day at an Illustration Station. From homes like these a boy or two should be sent for a year to learn both the practical and theoretical of what it takes, even with a good farmer 10 miles away, or to the Agricultural College. He would gain confidence in himself, and feel that the job is important and that there can be a good reward for diligence.

It is not every young man or woman that has a near neighbor from whom practical ideas can be borrowed. If he or she had, the battle would be half won. When the young show a thirst for knowledge, then the moral stump is stopped and we can begin to build.

Agriculture is the basic industry, and if inducements are offered in the line of practical education, more young people of keen minds will be attracted. A clergyman gets from seven to twelve years training, a doctor six, and so forth. We have no respect for a quack doctor and he cannot carry a very high head. Whatever we hope to excel in, we need to pay the price for it.

I am, Sir, etc. ARCH. MacKENZIE.

TRAPPED INFANT

LINDSAY, Ont. (CP) - A call to the home of W. J. Fenton wound up a busy day recently for Lindsay fire-fighters. At the house the fire chief had to climb a ladder to the bathroom window to bring out Fenton's two-year-old daughter, who had locked herself in.

Notes By The Way

In an article by Clifton Daniel, of the New York Times we see the Queen spoken of as "a 25-year-old housewife and mother" - this about as descriptive of the Queen's nature and function in the world as though her late father had been described as "a 56-year-old farmer and stamp-collector." The head of a great Commonwealth and the mistress of several palaces and mansions is not a housewife; the fact that the head of the state is a mother is of no more importance than that a king is a father. . . Let us resist the desire of the American press to turn the Queen into a Super-Mom. - Peterborough Examiner.

Parliament Hill's memorial ceremony for George the Sixth was described repeatedly by the radio broadcasters as a "service." It was not a "service," not, certainly, a Christian service. Indeed, omitting the playing by bands of a single hymn - "Abide With Me" - it was the sort of ceremony that might take place in Moscow's Red Square with the death of Stalin. No hint in these laying of wreaths and playing of bands, without a word from the Book of Common Prayer, or from the burial services of any other Christian faith, of George the Sixth's association with "the solemn beauty of the Christian dream which gave strength to his patient power." In this country some people talk - and boast - of the "separation of Church and State." Does the separation have to go to the point where a Christian country, officially marking the death of its Christian Monarch, has to exclude religious prayers? - Ottawa Journal.

The town of Macleod is changing its name to Fort Macleod, as it was known in the early days of the Royal North West Mounted Police. An excellent idea, we say. Any community is entitled to capitalize on whatever favors history has bestowed on it. Macleod will never be a great city, but it has had a rich past. The name Fort Macleod conjures up that past, and therefore it is a right and fitting name. It won't hold up the progress of the town any more than Calgary's annual reversion to cow town has slowed up that city. In fact Macleod will profit in some measure just as Calgary has profited. Canada has several

The Age-Old Story

Moreover, brethren, we do you to wit of the grace of God bestowed on the churches of Macedonia; how that in a great trial of affliction the abundance of their joy and their deep poverty abounded unto the riches of their liberality. . . Therefore, as ye abound in everything, in faith, and utterance, and knowledge, and in all diligence, and in your love to us, see that ye abound in this grace also. . . For ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that, though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, that ye through his poverty might be rich. And herein I give my advice: for this is expedient for you, who have begun before, not only to do, but also to be forward a year ago. Now therefore perform the doing of it; that as there was a readiness to will, so there may be a performance also out of that which ye have. For if there be first a willing mind, it is accepted according to that a man hath, and not according to that he hath not. For I mean not that other men be eased, and ye burdened; but by an equality, that now at this time your abundance may be a supply for their want, that their abundance also may be a supply for your want: that there may be equality: as it is written, He that had gathered much had nothing over; and he that had gathered little had no lack. - William Shakespeare.

The Passing Scene

By Observer WHITHER CIVILIZATION?

Another itinerant preacher in California is predicting the end of the world sometime in the very near future. There is nothing noticeably novel about this as somebody comes up with a similar prediction every now and then. Strangely, the cry is usually first heard in California. Only two or three years ago a man down there by the name of Long had hundreds of people so worked up about it that they gave away everything they had and just sat back to await the end. When the day arrived and nothing cataclysmic happened, Mr. Long said simply that he had made a little mistake. No one, of course, has any right to say that this world will never come to an end. It is at best a speculative subject. However, scientists claim to be in possession of evidence that would give the earth's age at about 2000 million years. They say, too, that barring unnecessary accidents, such as the indiscriminate throwing around of atoms and hydrogen bombs, it ought to be good for at least another such period.

Whatever may or may not happen to this planet, it is certain that the states of society we call civilizations do come to an end. Since the dawn of the first recognizable one roughly 6000 years ago there have been about nineteen or twenty in all. All of them except five (Western Christendom, Orthodox Christendom, Islam, Hindu Far Eastern) have seemingly come to an end. And, yet, since a law of nature is that nothing is ever really lost, we cannot say that any civilization has actually perished, although most of them, so far, have declined virtually to the point of extinction. Our own civilization (Western Christendom) is definitely a product of the Graeco-Roman which, in point of fact, it superseded. Indeed, in one way or another, all the surviving civilizations have their basic origins in Greece and Rome.

The historians have never been quite able to agree on just what it was that brought former civilizations to gradual decline and fall. If they could do that, it would greatly help those who are trying frantically to find some formula for saving our own. Some believe that all civilizations must sooner or later die and be replaced by higher ones. This is the theory of inevitability, once in popular vogue but not now, I believe, favoured by the leading historians.

It is interesting, though perhaps not edifying, to recall that some historians of note have blamed religion for the ill fate that befell the once all powerful and all influential Graeco-Roman culture. This was the view taken by Edward Gibbon (A.D. 1776) in his monumental "History of the Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire." He writes in his concluding paragraph: "I have described the triumph of barbarism and religion."

More than a hundred years later the same view was taken by Sir James Frazer in his quasi-classic "The Golden Bough." He writes of communion of the soul with God, and its eternal salvation, as a "selfish and immoral doctrine," as a result of which, he goes on to say, "a general disintegration of the body politic set in" (in Greek and Roman society).

One of the bright signs of our day is that, for all their erudition and historical ability, the views of Gibbon and Frazer are now well nigh obsolete, at least among historians of our Western Christendom civilization. The most eminent of these is perhaps Arnold J. Toynbee whose historical works are now accepted as standard in most intellectual circles. Not only is Professor Toyn-

bee a capable and erudite historian whose views command almost universal respect. He is also a practising Christian of note, which, of course, makes his world outlook of even greater significance. His "Civilization on Trial" is, one might suggest, required reading for anyone who is anxious to see some glimmer of hope in the darkness of our times.

Professor Toynbee does not rule out the possibility of our civilization's ultimate destruction. Indeed, if we continue to play around with atomic bombs and even more deadly toys, he thinks that the end may not be far off, and any thinking person will agree with him. But, even in that event, he is of the opinion that a remnant of our heritage will be salvaged, as has always happened in the fall of civilizations.

This time, it is interesting as well as humbling for us to note, the saving function, in Toynbee's opinion, will be the lot of a race of Pygmies in Central Africa. For one thing, they will be about the only people likely to be safe from actual battle. For another, they are reputed to have an extremely high and unspoiled conception of the nature of God. For a while, the historic honour believed that the historic honour might be shared by the Eskimos. However, they were ruled out in his final prediction since, in view of the strides recently made in aviation, Northern Canada, right to the North Pole, will almost certainly be a battle theatre in any future world conflict. In that case, the Eskimos like everybody else in the hemisphere would be brought within the sphere of whatever destruction might ensue.

The most hopeful and refreshing note of Toynbee's philosophy of being is that, far from religion's being the destroyer of civilizations, civilizations themselves have always been and will continue to be the servants of Religion. Sometimes, unwilling servants, but servants just the same. He cites as evidence that, in the encounters between the higher Religions, the higher of the Religions was born. For example, Christianity and her "half-sister" religion Islam sprang from the encounter between the Syrian and Greek civilizations, the present form of Hinduism from the Indian-Greek encounter, and so on.

To make a long story short (Toynbee always writes a long story) this eminent and deeply Christian historian is of the opinion that the future of mankind - if it is to have any future - lies, in his own words, "not with the offshoots of the civilizations whose encounters provided the opportunity (in time) for the higher Religions to come to birth but with these higher Religions themselves." In the forefront of these - for Toynbee is a convinced Christian, not merely a student of Comparative Religions - he places Christianity which, he feels, whatever may happen to any civilization, including his own, will eventually absorb into itself all that is best and most useful in all the other Religions and they all contain much that is good and mystically essential to the triumph of Religion.

All this, of course, is based on the assumption that human cleverness coupled with technological "know-how" will not ultimately drive all trace of man from the face of the earth. If this should come to pass - and the honest historian cannot dismiss the thought as an impossible speculation - Professor Toynbee thinks that earth's dominion may be taken over by certain species of winged insects such as the ants and the bees, which might in the long run do a much better job than man has been able to do.

Old Charlottetown

(And P. E. I.)

POSTOFFICE BOXES

"Mr. J. Newson is now engaged in placing the new lock-boxes in the Post Office. They will be arranged over the old lock-boxes, and substitute the glass ones. Each box will be fitted with a very handsome Yale Post Office Lock, which is made of brass, in the form of a very neat door, of six-by-three-inch dimensions. In the lower part is inserted a piece of glass - which is protected, by a moulding - so that the owner can see whether there is anything in the box without opening it. Besides being a convenience to the public, the new boxes will add greatly to the appearance of the Post Office." - The Examiner, May 23, 1878.

The Poet's Corner

FROM "THE COMEDY OF ERRORS"

Along with them they brought one Pinch, a hungry lean-faced villain, A mere anatomy, a mountebank, A threadbare juggler and a fortune-teller, A needy, hollow-eyed, sharp-looking wretch; A living-dead man; this pernicious slave; Forsooth, took on him as a conjurer. And, gazing in my eyes, feeling my pulse, And with no face, as 'twere, out-facing me, Cries out, I was possess'd. Then all together They fell upon me, bound me, bore me thence And in a dark and dankish vault at home There left me and my man, both bound together; Till, gnawing with my teeth my bonds in sunder, I gain'd my freedom and immediately Ran hither to your grace; whom I beseech To give me ample satisfaction For these deep shames and great indignities. - William Shakespeare.

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