

"Covers Prince Edward Island Like the Dew"
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"The strongest memory is weaker than the weakest ink."

Insanity As A Defence

Today the Royal Commission on the judicial defence of insanity will hold a public hearing in Charlottetown. Headed by Chief Justice J. C. McRuer of the Ontario High Court of Justice, it is charged with the task of considering the suitability of the law as it stands at present and of making recommendations for its improvement.

At present, to sustain the defence of insanity it must be proved on behalf of the accused that at the time of the offence natural imbecility or disease of the mind rendered him incapable of appreciating the nature and quality of the act or of knowing that it was wrong. A specific delusion which caused him to believe in the existence of a state of things which, if it existed, would justify the act or omission is sufficient to make the defence effective.

Today the very term "insanity" is fast losing ground in medical circles. Many specific mental diseases and aberrations are studied and treated but they are no more lumped together than broken arms and heart disease. Psychologists are increasingly aware of conditions under which an individual feels an irresistible compulsion to do things which he knows to be wrong. They are learning much about the subtleties of the human mind and are more inclined to treat any unsocial conduct as a proper subject for treatment rather than punishment.

Society, however, still believes in punishing the intentional wrongdoer and while it does so we are faced with the problem of deciding whether particular individuals are to be held accountable.

Bankers In Overalls

Those who think in terms of sharp division between capital and labor may be surprised to learn that United Mine Workers president John L. Lewis now qualifies for the pinstripes and morning frock of the Wall Street bankers' garb. Mr. Lewis, strange as it may seem, has by virtue of recent events in Washington, become the second most important banker in the United States capital.

Organized labor's dominance of the banking field, so far as the UMW is concerned, is largely the result of the skillful handling of union funds by Mr. Lewis himself. The National Bank of Washington, dominated by the UMW since 1949, will shortly be merged with the Hamilton National Bank. Reports from the United States capital suggest that bushy-browed banker Lewis already aspires to still higher pinnacles in the world of finance. Control of the American Security and Trust Company, which he is said to covet, would make him the leading and most powerful banker in Washington.

UMW boss John L. Lewis in the role of banker may strike some folk as a bit incongruous. Yet such is the wealth of some of the larger unions in the United States that such happenings may before long become a commonplace.

Erosion And Niagara

It is the old problem of erosion—so familiar to agriculturists the world over—which is responsible for the huge face-lifting job now being planned at Niagara Falls. The shelf which forms the cataract's lip is broken and jagged, so that the flow of the river is constantly tearing unevenly at it. If time had its way, the American Falls might dry up completely and the 2,600-foot wide Horseshoe Falls on the Canadian side could degenerate into a series of rapids. It is proposed to erect coffer dams before excavating, filling and reinforcing, so that the shelf can be smoothed out to allow a more even flow. The job will constitute one of the most ambitious engineering projects of the century.

"Time," comments the Spectator, "has in fact taken its toll of the Falls. Inch by inch the rushing river has chewed at the rock and by the closest measuring they estimate the Horseshoe Falls move upstream about five feet a year while the American Falls, with their harder limestone crest and lighter water flow, resist much more strongly. When geologists look into history etched on stone they figure that 35,000 years ago the great precipice stood several miles downstream from its present position. Even when Father Hennepin eyed with awe the shouting surge of white water 300 years ago, and tried to

put his impressions coherently into a sketch, the Falls were several hundred feet farther downstream toward Lake Ontario than they are now.

"We might think of it in terms of Cheops, the Egyptian Pharaoh, whose dark boat for a voyage through eternity has just been found under the sands of a hot and empty desert. When we read about the way they carried over 2,300,000 stones each averaging two-and-a-half tons each, to build the "heaven-storming monument" that was his personal pyramid, it gives a curious twist to the void we call time. It was only 5,000 years ago that these legions of slaves brought the rocks along ramps and raised them with wedges, and the Falls, which were young then by a geologist's yardstick, were slowly biting away the crestline towards the place where we look on them today."

A Sensational Event

They say that when a man bites a dog it's news; according to that, when a man bites a crocodile it must be a sensational event of the first order. It happened recently in Lake Ndola in Northern Rhodesia. The man, thinking he was being chased by the police, dived into the lake. The crocodile, not wanting any fugitives from justice in his domain, seized the intruder but released him after a short tussle in which the reptile's nose was bitten by his intended victim. Instead of weeping tears, as crocodiles are supposed to do while considering the disposal of their prey, this particular one ran from the scene of battle, screaming with pain and vexation. Before the angry and astonished creature had recovered sufficiently for another attack, the man managed to reach the shallows and was dragged ashore, exhausted, but able to talk to the policemen who had witnessed the fracas with such an unusual ending.

Much to the man's relief, it turned out that he was not wanted by the police, after all; they were searching for some one else who was suspected of having taken part in a robbery. From now on, after having had such a terrible experience, our African hero will think twice before jumping into Lake Ndola, police or no police. However, it was not altogether a useless experience; from one end of Northern Rhodesia to the other, and in many other places where heroism is honoured, he will be talked about and praised as the man who matched wits and exchanged blows with the most savage of all amphibious creatures, and lived to tell about it. Men have received medals for less spectacular feats.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Waterloo, 1818.

The iron is hot, so far as Charlottetown's chances are concerned of getting the long asked for airport runway extension.

The dragger Sea Hawk, out of New Bedford, Mass., is going in for something new in lobster fishing. The vessel makes five-day trips and trawls for lobsters in deep water. An average weekly catch of 3,500 pounds is reported.

It has been decided to apply inspection to all potatoes grown in this Province. The possible annoyance to the rare individual who grows for local consumption only is more than balanced by the importance of maintaining the industry's reputation for quality.

The aluminum industry and housewives who like using its products will be grateful to the Canadian Medical Association which has adopted a report giving a clean bill of health to aluminum cooking utensils. The CMA has given the lie to propaganda put out by certain salesmen for rival products.

Contrary to what many people think, children seem to prefer truth to fiction. At least a French Children Van has had that experience. The children were left free to choose what books they liked, with no attempt to influence or restrict them. The elder children, at least, were found to prefer travel books and biographies to novels. A frequent comment was, "I like it because it's true."

William Cobbett, English, Canadian and American author, pamphleteer and politician, died this date 1835. Farm labourer, solicitor's clerk and soldier, he went with the 54th Regiment to New Brunswick. He secured his discharge as sergeant-major and accused a number of officers of dishonesty. Before the court martial, however, he fled to France and then to the U. S. A. His hatred of shams and dishonesty resulted in a libel action which ruined him and he returned to England. He originated and edited "State Trials" and "Parliamentary Debates" which later became known as "Hansard."



Handicapping Himself

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.

MR. DARBY'S APPEAL

Sir,—The writer has noticed, with interest, the remarks of Hon. W. E. Darby, Attorney General, in his lament relative to the adopting of Daylight Time by some of our communities.

In considering Mr. Darby's just appeal for observance of law, may I say, Mr. Darby should have long been aware of the desire of these communities to enjoy Daylight Saving Time during the summer. Why did he not introduce legislation in the Provincial House, advocating Daylight Saving Time?

Secondly, an underlying cause which might have deterred the Attorney General, is the antiquated allocation of the provincial ridings. This causes undue emphasis being placed by some districts with small population, while urban districts are numerically weakly represented.

It would appear that the Provincial Government should have given more thought to the problem of Daylight Time, before passing the present Uniform Time Act.

I am, Sir, etc. ARTHUR L. WRIGHT, Charlottetown.

France's Contribution

(Montreal Gazette) Before anyone is critical of French policy in Indo-China or in Europe, it would be well to take an inventory of what France has contributed towards the fight against Communism. It may well be greater than that of any other nation. And it is not only a contribution of arms; it is the contribution in terms of dead and wounded, and of those who have faced the risks of the battlefield. This fact has been impressively presented by the French Minister of Defence, Rene Pleven. France in Indo-China has been engaged in one of the longest wars in a hundred years. This war has gone on for more than seven years. During this time France has raised its expeditionary force in Indo-China from 52,000 men in 1945 to 211,000 in 1950. This force now numbers from 206,000 to 215,000 men.

The money expended by France has exceeded the total of Marshall Aid. The French Army has barely maintained its officers, as the classes graduating from her military academies have been killed off in the Indo-China fighting.

All France's physically fit non-commissioned officers have served in Indo-China and many are being sent back after a rest. Ninety-five per cent of the officers in the French Colonial Infantry have served in Indo-China and 30 per cent have served for two periods. The casualties France has suffered in this unending conflict are greater than those suffered by the United States in all the fighting in Korea.

It is a fearful burden for France to carry alone. And it is not hard to understand how France wonders what effective contribution she can make to a European Defence Community, when she already has so costly a war on her hands.

Before there is criticism of the role of France in the world's struggle against Communism, it would be well to consider who would be ready to exchange their part of that war for hers.

Old Charlottetown

and P. E. I.

FOR NEW ZEALAND

"There was launched on Saturday, the 24th ult., a clipper Brig called the 'Pakeha' from the shipyard of Robert Orr, Esq., New Glasgow, in the presence of hundreds of friends of those about to take passage in this vessel to New Zealand. She is copper-fastened and copper-bottomed, and measures 212 tons old, or 173 new measurement. This vessel was built under

OTTAWA REPORT

National Weight Survey

By Patrick Nicholson

Our Health Department's survey of our average height and weight confirmed the disturbing reports that we overeat.

When we talk of malnutrition, we normally think of the victims of the recurring famines in Asia. Or perhaps we think of the undernourished prairie families during the depth of the depression which the MacKenzie King government of 1926-1930 headed us into.

But the unhappy fact, revealed by the Canadian Dietetic Association, is that this rich and prosperous country today suffers from malnutrition—the malnutrition of over-eating.

Nearly one Canadian in every four is today an average of 16 pounds heavier than he, and especially she, should be under ideal health conditions.

The height-weight survey showed that the average Canadian man is 5 feet 7 inches tall and weighs 161½ pounds. The average woman is a tiny 5 feet 1½ inch and measures a plump 135 pounds. These are averages, not ideals. The average is brought up by the sudden increase in weight which most men tolerate at around 35 years of age, and women five years older.

A survey by the United Nations shows that we eat an average of 3,240 calories per day, a figure unacceptably higher than the average U.S. diet. It is attributed largely to our very high intake of starches.

The best way to keep down our extra weight is by careful choice of our diet. It is easier to reduce by eating less than by exercising more. It would take a 36 mile walk to lose one pound in weight, and the two day rest to relax our strained muscles after that walk would probably put that lost weight right back on again.

Our Minister of National Health, the Hon. Paul Martin, recently gave Ottawa a fine personal example, appropriate to the man holding his important job. He dieted carefully for two years, and reduced his weight by 40 pounds. Today he is almost the exact average Canadian, in height and weight. But he is the first to admit that even his reduction to the national average weight is not yet ideally fatless.

Mr. Martin's department has recently staged an exhibition here, including among many other interesting demonstrations a model showing just how fast we use up the calories which we absorb at the table.

Even while we sleep, we burn 60 calories an hour, and the baby-sitter who sits restfully knitting through the evening uses 90 calories. Mother expends 130 calories an hour sweeping the house with her electric vacuum cleaner, and 205 calories in an hour at the laundry tubs.

But if she then refreshes herself with a glass of milk, she takes 220 calories right in again.

Lloyd's inspection by Charles Bell, Esq., of this city, for Mr. Thomas Williams, of Auckland, New Zealand, and is pronounced by the Commissioners to be one of the best vessels in every respect ever constructed on this Island. Her accommodations for passengers are complete, being dry, roomy and comfortable, as great care has been given to this particular. Quite a number of persons have already engaged their passage in her to Auckland. She will leave Charlottetown about the middle of November."

—The Vindicator, Nov. 4, 1883. In its issue of December 16 following, the same paper reported: "The brig Pakeha, Capt. Campbell, from this port for New Zealand, sailed on Saturday last. She had on board about three dozen passengers, all told. Mr. Bell, merchant tailor, of this city, goes out as far as the Cape of Good Hope in her, and purposes returning to this city again next summer. He has on board an assorted cargo, which he intends disposing of at the Cape."

NOTES BY THE WAY

If children learn from their elders, then someone made a bad job of it. — Moose Jaw Times-Herald.

Oceanographers at the Scripps Institution of La Jolla, Cal., are considering evidence that suggests that the sea may weigh about 20 trillion tons less in spring than in autumn. — Hamilton Spectator.

Vandalism in Springfield, Mass., has led to a suggestion that watchdogs be employed to guard schools after classes. Can they guarantee dogs bright enough to distinguish between Johnny coming back for the books he forgot and a vandal bent on destruction? — Ottawa Journal.

There is nothing among a true Scotman more than the incorrect pronunciation of the term Scotman. In Canada and the United States a person who hails from the land of the heather and the kilt is called a "Scotchman." Either that or he is called "Scotch," which is equally wrong. Now let it be understood here, once and for all, the word "Scotch" is never applied to anything else but whisky, or that wily, little animal called the "Scotch terrier." — Owen Sound Sun-Times.

Milk dealers and manufacturers of beer and soft drinks charge for bottles and get them back to use over again. There must be millions of glass jars of jams sold, but the producers do not ask for their return when empty. The cash value of these jars must be enormous, and it is a source of wonder why no allowance is made for them. What becomes of them all? Surely they could be returned, sterilized and used over again. It is a tremendous waste of money — and glass. — St. Thomas Times-Journal.

If you find that a plunge into the invigorating breakers of the Bay of Fundy doesn't seem to freeze you as much as it did 10 years ago don't be too quick to ascribe this to the theory that you have become hardier and more cold-resistant. The simple fact is that if the water appears slightly warmer, it likely is. Atlantic fishermen don't have to

dip a tentative toe into the waves to suspect that the water temperature has been inching upward. They have heard reports of strange southern fish occasionally being hauled up in nets along with the routine haddock, halibut, cod and mackerel — such fish as tropical rays, for instance. Fishermen take this to mean that the ocean climate is changing, or at least that more warm currents have been veering up in that direction lately. — From the Saint John Telegraph-Journal.

Even in heavily-infested areas, babies under six months old never seem to catch malaria, says Dr. F. Hawking, of the National Institute for Medical Research, in London. His explanation: These babies are fed almost entirely on human or cow's milk, which are deficient in one of the B vitamins. This substance is essential for the growth of malaria organisms in the human body. A double-check on the theory is provided by other British workers, who found recently that rats fed on a milk diet are resistant to malaria. If the milk diet is supplemented with the B Vitamin, the resistance is destroyed. — Stratford Beacon Herald.

The Poet's Corner

TO HIS BOOKS By sucking you the wise, like bees, do grow Healing and rich, though this they do most slow. Because most choicely; for as great a store Have we of books as bees of herbs, And the great task to try, then know, the good, To discern weeds, and judge of wholesome food, Is a rare scant performance. For oft ere 'tis done, while the bees feeds and flies. But you were all choice flowers; all set and dressed By old sage florists, who well knew the best. —Henry Vaughan (1622-95).

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