

THE GUARDIAN

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CIRCULATION "Covers Prince Edward Island like the dew" "The Strongest Memory is Weaker Than the Weakest Ink"

CHARLOTTETOWN, TUESDAY, MARCH 4, 1952

Germany Recovers

When allied planes ceased to thunder over the cities of Germany in 1945, the occupying troops who took over the country saw little but a dazed and broken people huddled amid mountains of rubble.

Yet less than six years later Germany, partitioned, policed by occupying troops and still bearing the visible marks of war, is once again the foremost industrial nation on the continent.

It is easy to say that all this is due to the decision of the western democracies, in the face of the threat of Soviet aggression, to abandon the Morgenthau Plan and other schemes for preventing the re-emergence of the Reich as an industrial nation.

One reason for Germany's sudden recovery is Minister of Economics Ludwig Erhard. Herr Erhard is a bit of an anachronism in post-war Europe in that he believes in a free economy.

Philo-Keynesians in England and elsewhere have viewed Herr Erhard's old-fashioned economic notions with horror.

Falling Birth Rate

When the Federal system of family allowances for Canada was proposed and enacted into law in 1944, it was predicted that the national birth rate would be thereby increased.

In other countries there has been a careful, scientific study of the right way to pay and grade family allowances—if one objective is to encourage parenthood.

"The merits of these schemes," says the Globe and Mail, "may be debatable. In particular, the Russian arrangement might be thought open to both eugenic and political objections in this country."

avored system is the universal handout to the more, the merrier. Whatever may be said in favor of this plan as a sure-fire producer of votes, it is not proving to be a great success as a producer of inhabitants."

EDITORIAL NOTES

Education Week. City school children are being inoculated against diphtheria and whooping cough.

S. D. U. students deserve credit for producing the best University debaters in the Maritimes; and P. W. C. on being commended as the best small University in the Maritimes.

Compensation for the Saskatchewan stock breeders for the destruction of their disease-affected cattle is the least the Government can offer.

The live caterpillars which turned up at Borden last week are a reminder of how little real frost there has been this winter—and of how many other insects must be similarly surviving.

Now April 21 will be a statutory holiday, replacing the June one we celebrated as the King's birthday.

"Totalitarian Education", Dr. Watson Kirkconnell's subject for the Samuel Robertson Memorial Lecture, is a peculiarly important subject today.

The trial lot of Island cheese put up in the new and convenient pack has proved popular with housewives.

The German immigrant, Willie Bruntjen, the suspected foot-and-mouth disease virus carrier, is travelling some these days, and will have seen more of Canada in shorter time than the best travelled Canadian in a life-time.

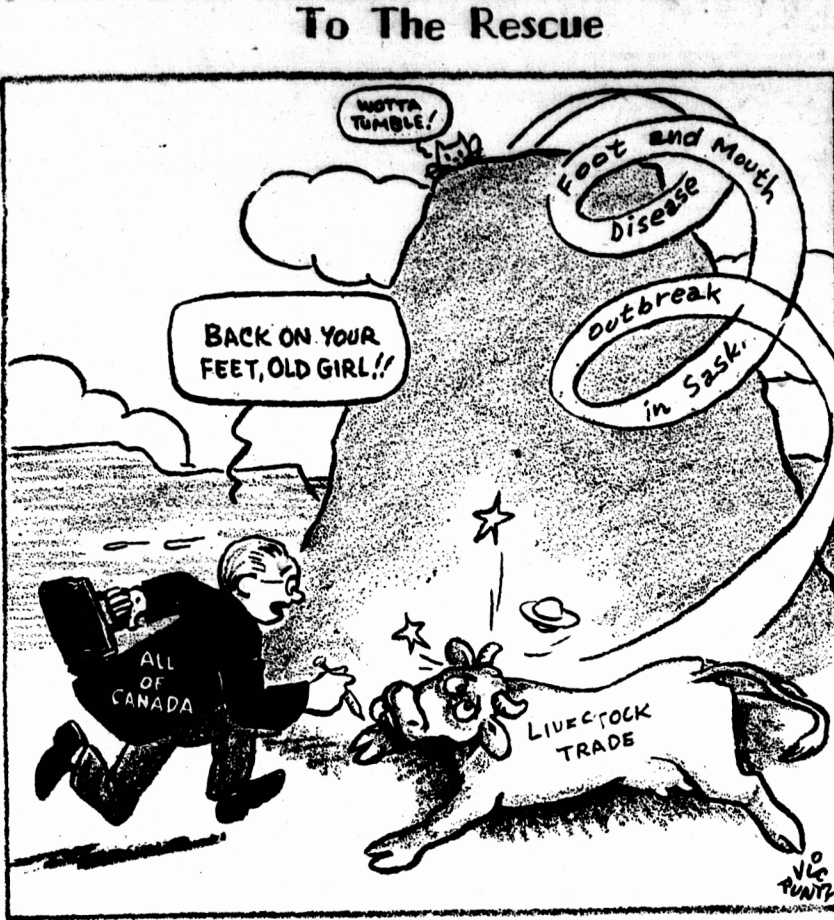
It is a pity that American papers seem to have misunderstood Prime Minister Churchill's reference to the development of the atomic bomb.

It is a little hard to see for the confusion prevailing but U.N.O. secretary-general Trygve Lie believes that the chances of peace are better.

Britain, traditional source of industrial skills, is learning from the United States how to produce more with less training of workers.

Nikolai Gogol, Russian author, died one hundred years ago today, although the date was February 21, 1852, according to the calendar then in use.

Mr. Edgar McInnis, Prince Edward Island head of the Canadian Institute of International Affairs, recently addressed an Ottawa service club on the prospects of building strong democracies in the new nations of Asia.



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 PEOPLE'S MONEY

Sir—Hockey talk is giving place to "the tax rate", and many wild predictions are in the air.

Indications are that the new rate will not be declared until the programme of expenditure has been agreed to, after the same has been trimmed down to margin of safety, void of extravagance.

GERMAN FARM WORKERS

Sir—I read a report in The Guardian not long ago where it was proposed to have the P. E. I. Government arrange farm employment for about 40 or 50 young men to be recruited from German provinces.

Well I think it would be a much better idea if the Government would consider recruiting the 40 or 50 farm hands from our own list of unemployed—good Island-born men, who are only waiting for the chance to go to work; and they can and will work if given a decent wage, and not the starvation wages we have been getting.

I cannot understand why young men of this Province are compelled to leave their homes to seek employment and security elsewhere. We have a wonderful little Island with the very best of land. It is a shame to see so many farms growing up in bushes.

I spent four and one-half years in the Army and what did the Government do for me? Nothing. I have tried for a job but could never get one, yet the Government will send to other countries for men and guarantee them employment, and pay their way until they are well established.

The Age-Old Story

And it came to pass, when Jesus had ended these sayings, the people were astonished at his doctrine.

long, I and a lot more were laid off. We were told it was because of power shortage, but I found out later it was to make jobs for those D. P.'s—cheap labour arranged by our big shot Government, for the benefit of the manufacturers, who have the government by the horns and might not contribute to the boodle pot next election if they do not get what they want.

EAST AND WEST

Sir—Some say that the world is getting smaller. But to most of us, a country like India is quite a far away thing to expect to go there and have never met an East Indian. It has a population of 325 millions including Pakistan.

IS BRITAIN ON THE WANE?

Sir,—In notes at the end of G. S. Gordon's fine poem, "King George VI", published in The Guardian the 15th, the writer speaks of Britain as a "far flung empire that seems to be on the wane."

If the critics are thinking of India, as a loss to the Empire, then they are wrong. True, that nation of 350 millions of people has been cut out from the British Empire but that is the greatest stroke of policy ever made in her history.

Old Charlottetown

(And P. E. I.)

GUARD HOUSE DESTROYED

"Early on Sunday morning last, the Guard House at the entrance to Government House grounds was discovered to be in flames.

ern religion, it must be stripped away from the message altogether and offered them only in the life and teaching of Christ, who was Himself an Asiatic.

The writer is indebted to Stanley Jones' "Christ of the Indian Road", which was written more than 30 years ago. His more recent writings would no doubt be quite informative.

MARtha OF BETHANY

It's all very well sitting in the shade of the courtyard Talking about your souls. Someone's got to see to the cooking.

Standing at the oven all morning With you two taking your ease. It's all very well Saying he'd be content With bread and honey. Perhaps he would—but I wouldn't Coming to our house like this. Not giving him of our best. Yes, it's all very well Him trying to excuse you, Saying your recipe's best, Saying I worry too much, That I'm always anxious of all Someone's got to worry— And double if the others don't care For it's all very well Talking of faith and belief. But what would you do If everyone sat in the cool And not getting their meals? And he can't go wandering and preaching On an empty stomach— He'd die in the first fortnight. When where would you be With all your discussions and questions. And no one to answer them? It's all very well.

It was much the same, and more dangerously so, with the Japanese right up to the end of the Second World War. "The world under one roof" was their way of expressing the same foolish illusion.

As for the Germans, twice in a generation they went so far as to throw the whole world into war in a passionate desire to compel all other peoples to acknowledge their unique destiny and to accept their "kultur".

Russia, under the Czars, clung to the same idea with an even more intense religious conviction. The sceptre of all that the Roman Empire had stood for had passed to "Holy" Russia. So had the cultural heritage of ancient Greece. And so far more excellent than all else, had Christianity itself in its only proper form, Orthodoxy (Proper in the Russian view, that is) What people had more right to say they were God's Chosen?

The Passing Scene

By Observer GOD'S CHOSEN PEOPLE

In the study of history one fact that stands out is that all the civilizations that have so far appeared and all the nations that have had any part in shaping the destiny of the world have fancied themselves to be uniquely and highly favoured. In other words, the Chosen People of God.

Everyone is familiar with the claim as it involved the ancient Hebrew people. They alone were God's people. Their wars were divine crusades. They had been raised up for a particular purpose, to give the world a true and pure religion. All other peoples and races were gentiles, that is to say, strangers, outside the chosen and select family of Jehovah. Now and then some among them, notably the prophets, caught a vision of something finer and nobler concerning the Fatherhood of God but in the main this sense of spiritual and racial exclusiveness dominated the Hebrew philosophy of religion.

The Mohammedans took the same claim for themselves. Their quarrel was not so much with the Hebrew prophets or with Jesus, whom they acknowledged to be God's greatest prophet before his final messenger, Muhammad, as with the Christian Church as an institution. In their view Christianity had taken on the cloak of Greek idolatry. Consequently, Islam's divine task was to rescue the one true religion from the hands of those who had betrayed it. Only in the onward march of Mohammedanism by fire and sword was there any hope for mankind.

In the ensuing centuries as much of the Muslim world has become "Westernized" in a political sense, this "chosen people" complex has been much less aggressive. It is not by any means dead, however, and there is no telling when it may re-emerge in world affairs. Indeed, there are signs of it already.

It is not only in the sphere of historic religions that this "chosen people" complex has asserted itself. It has been found too, in practically every nation of importance. The great Roman Empire, which in its hey-day included almost the whole known world, felt to it tenaciously. Loyalty to Rome was the only assurance of peace and even of life for individuals and peoples. The might of the Empire was nothing less than the instrument of God, both before and after the beginning of the Christian era.

Under 18th century Chinese Imperialism the complex was perhaps more fanatic than it had ever been up to that time. (Nor is there any indication that China's present rulers are any less foolish in this respect.) George the Third of England, who did a lot of unwise things in his day thought it would be a good thing for both countries if they were to exchange diplomatic representatives. So, very formally and as graciously as he knew how, he wrote a letter to that effect to the Emperor Ch'ien Lung. The "Son of Heaven" was much put out that the head of any "barbarian" State should suggest such an impossible arrangement. This, in part, is what he wrote back:

"As to your entreaty to send one of your people to my Celestial Court, this request cannot possibly be entertained. No one could transplant our good manners and customs to your alien and barbarous soil. I sway the whole world, all that is under Heaven, and my one aim is to maintain a perfect governance. I set no value on strange objects and I have no use for your country's goods."

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Russia, under the Czars, clung to the same idea with an even more intense religious conviction. The sceptre of all that the Roman Empire had stood for had passed to "Holy" Russia. So had the cultural heritage of ancient Greece. And so far more excellent than all else, had Christianity itself in its only proper form, Orthodoxy (Proper in the Russian view, that is) What people had more right to say they were God's Chosen?

The present masters of that nation believe exactly the same nonsense, except that their concept of religion in its purest form, Christian or any other, means Communism. And they believe just as fanatically as did the first Mohammedans to carry out, in their peculiar and blasphemous type of moral aberration Russia, which of course to them represents the ideal political State. It is still "Holy" Russia. In fact, I believe the word is still used in some Soviet official documents.

We of the Anglo-Saxon race have shared in this racial vanity, although I believe history will record that somehow we managed to keep it within controllable limits. Still, it must be said that from Marlborough (Mr. Marlborough's ancestor) who asked, "What side could the Almighty be on but that of the Englishman?" to Kipling, the poetic spokesman for Victorian greatness, the story of Empire, heroic and good in the main, was not entirely free of pretentiousness and vain glory.

Today, the imaginary mantle of superiority in Western Civilization at any rate, has been assumed by the powerful and, generally speaking, benevolent Americans. Almost any one of them you happen to meet will try to make you understand that he is lucky to be living in "God's country," and he finds it easy enough to give facts and figures to support his claim. It isn't that the average American would like his Government to pursue world domination as a political policy. Tyranny is by no means an American trait. It is that, since he feels in his heart that he is the freest person in the world, he cannot help pitying anyone called upon to live under some other form of government. To him the American Constitution is one of the supreme gifts of the Creator, and he wishes that all men everywhere could share in it. He simply cannot understand why any intelligent human being, if he had the chance, would refuse the invitation to live his life under the kindly protection of "Old Glory." That was one consideration, we may be sure, that prompted the much ridiculed Representative Sheehan to suggest peaceful annexation of Canada.

Some day this emphasis on racial and national superiority which, in some degree, has afflicted all the peoples of the earth will pass away to be heard of no more, and the quicker the better. Only then will there be any chance for the always anxious of all known civilizations to be brought together for the common good of all men.

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