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Patent Commission

The Royal Commission on Patents, Copyright and Industrial Design has been hearing submissions from the Patent Institute of Canada and others on the workings of Canada's laws for the encouragement of inventors, authors and designers.

In due course we can expect to hear from the representatives of the highly organized musical fraternity but it will not be altogether surprising if the poets and other writers remain inarticulate while the rules for the commercial exploitation of their works are being considered.

It is industry, moreover, that is receiving the most attention at the moment. That, perhaps, is as it should be. The creator of a work of art or of ingenuity is not greatly concerned whether he draws his royalties from reproduction in Canada or another country.

As pointed out in the brief of the Institute, if a patent is to be an incentive to research, invention and investment, protection must be given against the production and selling of a similar article and also against its importation by others.

Attacking Cultural Smog

Commenting on a report that university freshmen in Toronto are showing more competence in the use of English, the Globe and Mail points out that this, if true, is of more than academic interest.

"The more exact use of English, and the clearer thinking that goes with it, are the first phases of an attack on the massive mediocrity which seems to have settled on this continent like a cultural smog since the end of the war.

"There is little point in preaching a higher ethics unless the tools of logic and dialectic are kept burnished by use. No Golden Age is possible if the fine finish of language is thrown away.

"Much of the economic and political confusion of our times arises from the sloppy thinking which always accompanies a wide tolerance for sloppy language, whether spoken or written.

Big Butter Holdings

It is reported that the Federal Government has nearly 80 million pounds of butter on its hands, or the greater part of the nation's total stocks.

The government's big holdings this fall, notes the Ottawa Citizen, result from its policy of supporting the butter market so as to benefit producers.

"The government, of course, has a substantial financial stake in the present surplus. It may not be able to work off the bulk of its holdings by next spring without dropping the selling price; and any cut, whether to buyers at home or abroad, must be at the expense of Canadian taxpayers.

Democracy in Turkey

The political party now in control of the Government of Turkey is called the "Democratic Party"; but, according to a report to the New York Times from its special correspondent in Ankara, the kind of democracy it favours is very different from that to which we in this part of the world are accustomed.

The report states also that during the summer Bulant Nuri Esen, professor of constitutional law at the University, was dismissed from his post because he said in a lecture that Turkey is not "actually democratic."

EDITORIAL NOTES

Field Marshal Lord Montgomery of Alamein born this date 1887.

Congratulations are in order for Dingwell MacLeod of Vernon, who exhibited the grand champion box of poultry at the Royal Winter Fair.

Australia has conquered the foreign-born rabbit but is now threatened by the indigenous kangaroo. The marsupial now outnumbers sheep in many grazing districts and fencing to the kangaroo is much less of an obstacle than it would be to deer.

This is an age of packaging and the Hon. Eugene Cullen has placed emphasis on a matter of vital importance to our agricultural producers. The need for high quality products is always with us but today they must be displayed in attractive and convenient form.

The retirement of Mr. Graham Towers after twenty years as first governor of the Bank of Canada recalls that the central bank was one of two financial institutions included in the plans of the late Lord Richard Bennett. The second was a money market in Montreal, which only this year is becoming a reality.

The all-farmer potato marketing board suggested by the P. E. I. Federation of Agriculture would certainly have less internal dissension than the present Board. It might be well, however, to consider calling upon men of widely varying experience and views even at the expense of apparent solidarity.

George Grote, English historian and politician, author of the standard work on Greece, was born this date 1794. After 30 years as a banker he retired and entered Parliament. He was one of a group of philosophical radicals, which included Bentham and Mill, and he was one of the chief advocates of the secret ballot.



Pleasant Prospect

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.

SWEETSTAKE PRIZES

Sir, — Recent announcements of sweepstake winnings, up to five figures, were of course "news" and were made with no unworthy motives. Nevertheless the announcements were only part of the truth and insofar as they advertised the gambling business, they had a bad influence on the public.

Some buy the ticket on the ground that they are supporting Irish hospitals. Figures show that only 16 cents of each dollar goes to the hospitals. 25 cents goes to commissions and expenses of the promoters.

This is just a glimpse at the economic side of the gambling racket. The moral side is still more condemning.

I am, Sir, etc. J. W. HOWE, Charlottetown, P. E. I.

The Poet's Corner

VOYAGER

When the warm earth shall sliver into night— A frozen pendulum on a dying sun— And all the works of man that shone so bright— Stand in the shadow of oblivion. The knell we feared so long may never ring; The battle of the years will not be lost. A second human challenge we shall fling Into the vast of endless space uncrossed. And though these ways be dangerous and steep Crowding errors haunt the path he flies. Man is no stranger on that rimless deep Nor compass lost within the trackless skies. The wings of morning will be surely borrow And on some newer world ride out the morrow. —Ruth Mary Weeks in the New York Times.

Old Charlottetown and P. E. I. PATENT BUTTER TUB

"Mr. H. Coombs, of Charlottetown, was last week showing in town a model of a patent butter tub of his own invention. Mr. Coombs was looking about with a view to the possible manufacture of the article in Moncton. The principal advantages claimed for it are the safety of butter by retention of brine, and exclusion of foreign odors, especially in shipment abroad. The tub is water tight and air tight. The staves are bevelled, and the head of the tub fastened similar to that of a flour barrel. Mr. Coombs claims the tub can be manufactured almost as cheaply as common butter tubs, while the advantages make it of several times the value when shipments are made at a distance."

OTTAWA REPORT

Shekels For Shackles

By Patrick Nicholson

OTTAWA: General Peakes, V. C., the Conservative M. P. from Vancouver Island, recently referred to the almost complete absence at Ottawa of the kind of frank interpretation of the political news which takes American, British and similarly well-informed newspaper readers behind the scenes of their public affairs.

The General declared that one of the shackles is the offering of attractive inducements to those newspaper writers who can be relied upon always to write the official government side of a story. These baits include, he said, high fees for short talks into the microphones of the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation.

The C. B. C. keeps up a steady and substantial flow of fees to newspapermen whom it invites to speak about current affairs. The fees paid for these talks range from \$5 to \$200 per performance. There is no fixed scale, so widely differing sums within this bracket are paid to different writers for filling exactly similar spots on the air.

The total sums thus paid to newspapermen, in Ottawa and all over the country, is a secret closely guarded by the C. B. C. and by its master the government. Once this iron curtain was lifted accidentally, and some astonishing figures were revealed. In that particular year, the many substantial fees paid by the C. B. C. included \$18,000 to one newspaperman for his part-time work. This matched the sum then paid to Cabinet Ministers for their whole-time public jobs, and is far more than the average newspaperman is paid for his year's journalistic endeavours.

Most newspapermen who comment over the C. B. C. draw fees well above the pin-money bracket; quite a number of them earn more for their short radio appearances than for their regular newspaper work. Naturally these would not like to lose these fees. This could substantially affect the writing of the most conscientious human. One leading national daily newspaper is so suspicious of the possible effect of this lure of C. B. C. fees upon newspapermen, that it forbids its own staff to do any work for the C. B. C.

This select group of members of the Gilded Mike Club does not include some of the outstanding political analysts in Ottawa, who have long done an able and conscientious job praising the government when they believe this due, and not fearing to criticize if they consider its actions to be ill-judged.

The solution to what is a very real threat to our democratic freedom of the press could be the complete abolition of this lure of C. B. C. plums — which a lawyer might describe as constructive bribery. The C. B. C. has erred in adopting its unusual system. Like broadcasting networks in most other countries, it would better employ its own staff or reporters full time, rather than hire part-time newspapermen who have possibly conflicting interests.

Another solution would be to regard parliamentary commentaries as being frankly political talks, and to invite each political party in turn to nominate the reporters who would give these talks, just as each party in turn nominates its M. P.s to speak over the air.

The former procedure would eliminate the possibility of a newspaperman's writing being tinged by other interests; the latter would eliminate the present implicit censorship of the air by government employees. But both merely skirt round the core of the problem, which in a very real sense is that the C. B. C. is not an impartial source of information and entertainment but an instrument of propaganda for whatever political party might currently be in power, in widely-held opinion.

NEW YORK (AP) — Attorney General Nathaniel L. Goldstein said Tuesday he has evidence of election frauds and wholesale vote buying in the county and city of Albany. He said it has been turned over to the U. S. department of justice for action. Albany gave a plurality to Averell Harriman, Democratic candidate who edged out Senator Irving Ives, Republican, for governor in the Nov. 2 election.

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NOTES BY THE WAY

This may come as a blow, but science is now convinced that man's intelligence has shown no increase for some half a million years. As far as native genius goes, according to the genetic experts gathered in convention at Bar Harbor, we're no better equipped than our skin-colored prehistoric forebears. — Providence Journal.

"It is not the university, not the mechanical institute, not the specialized professional colleges that are most important in the lives of our youth. The primary and secondary schools are vastly the most important of all." This emphatic and factual statement was made on the recent occasion of the opening of the new St. Mary's District Collegiate Institute by Canada's only living former prime minister, Rt. Hon Arthur Meighen. — Brantford Expositor.

The popularity of rummage sales spreads like wildfire. In fact one local sale was besieged by customers who had formed in a queue in front of their church hall, extending for almost two blocks, simply because the word had spread that a "nearly new" table would offer a variety of bargains. That particular sale cleared about two hundred dollars during its one day of operation. — Brockville Record.

The grand 21 storey Canadian National Railways hotel in Montreal, now in the early stages of construction, is to be named the Queen Elizabeth and that is good. It is interesting to learn from Mr. Donald Gordon, C. N. R. president, that "by far the largest number of French-speaking and English-speaking citizens" of the hundreds who wrote him about a name for the hotel "wished the name to be identified in some form with the Crown." — Ottawa Journal.

With scores dead by hurricane and flood in suburban Toronto, Canadians have a keener appreciation of the horrors of natural disaster of this kind. They will feel quick sympathy for Italy where cloudbursts and landslides have taken hundreds of lives on the Salerno coast. Here is a chance perhaps for the North Atlantic Treaty Organization to launch one of the non-military projects it is supposed to promote — the mustering of equipment and supplies for Italian relief. Meantime the Netherlands with memories of loss received during its flood some while ago, has earmarked a splendid donation of \$50,000 for the assistance of Ontario's flood victims. — Ottawa Citizen.

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The Age Old Story The Lord upholdeth all that fall, and raiseth up all those that are bowed down. The eyes of all wait upon thee; and thou givest them their meat in due season. They openeth thine hand, and satisfieth the desire of every living thing.

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ATTENTION JUNIOR FARMERS

A new feature of the 1955 Provincial Exhibition will be a special show and sale of beef cattle, fed and shown by junior farmers. This is made possible with the co-operation of Canada Packers Ltd., Charlottetown, who have offered to supply and finance a number of uniform beef type feeder steers from Western Canada to be fed during the next 8 months for this project. These steers will be supplied to boys between the ages of 14 to 18 years who can qualify. The boys are to feed and care for these steers and then bring them to the Provincial Exhibition during Old Home Week next year where they will be shown, judged, cash prizes awarded and sold by auction. The Provincial Department of Agriculture has kindly agreed to assist in the supervision of this project. To obtain full particulars, boys who are interested should write to the Provincial Department of Agriculture, Charlottetown not later than Nov. 25. This is a splendid opportunity for any boy who is interested in feeding and finishing a top quality beef steer.