

The Guardian

Published every week day morning at 10 Prince Street, Charlottetown, P. E. I., by the Thomson Company Ltd. 4 King St. W., Toronto, Ont. 400. Montreal, Quebec, 1000 Avenue Tower Bldg. Editor, Frank Walker. General Manager, Ian A. Burnett. Member, Canadian Daily Newspaper Publishers Association. Member of the Canadian Press. Member, Audit Bureau of Circulations. Branch offices at Summerside, Montserrat and Alberton. Authorized as Second Class Mail by the Post Office Department. Ottawa. By Carrier, Charlottetown, Summerside, \$1.00 per an. Other Elsewhere in P.E.I. \$0.00 Other Provinces and U.S. \$12.00 per annum.

THURSDAY, APRIL 19, 1956

A Fresh Approach

For several years now the Western world has been told over and over again that hydrogen bomb tests—getting bigger and bigger all the time—are necessary, and that the piling up of bombs is the only protection free nations have against the designs of the Soviet Union. All this, in spite of the fact that long range danger from radioactive fallout has been scientifically established, and in spite of another fact perhaps even more fearful than the other, that, historically, arms races, almost without exception, have resulted in war.

The argument advanced in favour of more and bigger bombs and periodical tests of their strength is that the Soviet Union is carrying on the same practices. But how far is the argument valid? If, as is claimed, the United States already has enough bombs of proven strength to render any aggressor militarily impotent, what sense is there in multiplying their number month after month, provided of course the security of the United States and her allies is never at any time placed in jeopardy? This, in effect, is the view held by Mr. Thomas E. Murray, a member of the United States Atomic Energy Commission and a prominent Roman Catholic churchman. In recent testimony before the Foreign Relations Committee, Mr. Murray called for an immediate halt to hydrogen tests, on the ground that previous tests have provided all the information that is needed, and a limitation in the size and number of bombs to be stockpiled, on the ground that the bombs now available are powerful enough and numerous enough for any emergency that might arise. Furthermore, he favours such action on the part of the United States regardless of anything the Russians may or may not do. "It is for us, as rational human beings," said Mr. Murray, "to set limits on the basis of moral purposes and military usefulness".

Whether or not Mr. Murray's suggestions are agreed to by his associates and made a part of United States policy, it certainly is a fresh approach to a problem that is moral as well as military in nature.

Mars Survey Resumed

Earth and Mars are swinging through space toward their nearest meeting of mid-century, as astronomers adapt new instruments to answer old and perplexing puzzles. Do "canals" actually crisscross the red and green planet? If so, what are they? Does life of any sort exist there? Why has Martian geography been changing? The National Geographic Society and the Lowell Observatory of Flagstaff, Arizona, have announced that the veteran astronomer, Dr. E. C. Slipher, will return this spring to Bloemfontein, South Africa, for the second six-month exploration of the face of Mars in three years.

Dr. Slipher's Mars Expedition again will use the University of Michigan's 27-inch refracting telescope, largest in the Southern Hemisphere, at the Lamont-Hussey Observatory near Bloemfontein, capital of the Orange Free State. There Mars will appear almost overhead each night during its close approach. The "seeing" through clear skies of Africa's winter will be as good as anywhere on earth. The neighboring planet will reach its closest point September 7—about 35,300,000 miles away. On September 10, Earth, Mars, and the sun will be in opposition, or exactly in line. Adding to 20,000 photographs of Mars taken in 1954 from the same location, the Martian study will be the most extensive ever attempted.

At Lowell Observatory, under the direction of Dr. Albert G. Wilson, tests are being made of new "image intensifiers," electronic apparatus capable of greatly magnifying a telescope's power and resolution of detail. Photographs taken of an image on the Lumicon, a light-boasting tube based on television principles, require far shorter exposure times than through the tele-

scope alone. Dr. Slipher and Dr. Wilson hope that faster photographs will eliminate the fuzziness of atmospheric movement—the effect that makes stars seem to twinkle—and give science its first sharp, clear look at Mars.

As Earth's neighbor, next furthest away in distance from the sun, Mars follows a lopsided orbit that takes 687 days for each circuit. It thus reaches opposition once every two earth years. Because its orbit is eccentric, it passes at varying distances, from a maximum of 62,900,000 miles to a minimum of 34,600,000 miles. Its closest approach, such as the one in 1956, occur every 15 years. The last came in 1941; the next will be in 1971.

Mars is the only member of the solar system whose entire surface astronomers can see. Unlike the moon, the red planet rotates so that all of it is visible. It turns on its axis once every 24 hours and 37 minutes. Half the diameter of Earth, it has a correspondingly weaker gravity—a 200-pound human would weigh only 74 pounds there. Its atmosphere is thinner; pressure at the surface is less than at the top of Mt. Everest. Man has long been fascinated by the possibility of life on Mars. Only the lowest forms of plant life, however, are now thought probable.

A Courageous Man

Peaslee Streets, a Florida policeman, deserves some kind of medal for courage. One would almost venture to suggest that in years to come, when racial prejudice and hatred have been forgotten as a bad dream in the night, his name will be found in the history books as one of the builders of true American democracy.

This is the way of it. Some months ago policeman Streets filed his candidacy for the Democratic nomination for the Governorship of the State. At that time, he declared himself in favour of continued racial segregation. Since then, however, he has been doing some serious thinking on the subject with the result that a day or two ago he made a public disavowal of segregation and endorsed the Supreme Court decision outlawing the old social practice. Said he: "When I filed my papers I spoke from a background of segregated customs in Florida. Lately, I have studied it all over again, recalled the moral teachings of my parents, and decided to change my position. I see the need to approach the problem of public school integration without harsh emotion and with sanity, reason, and persuasion".

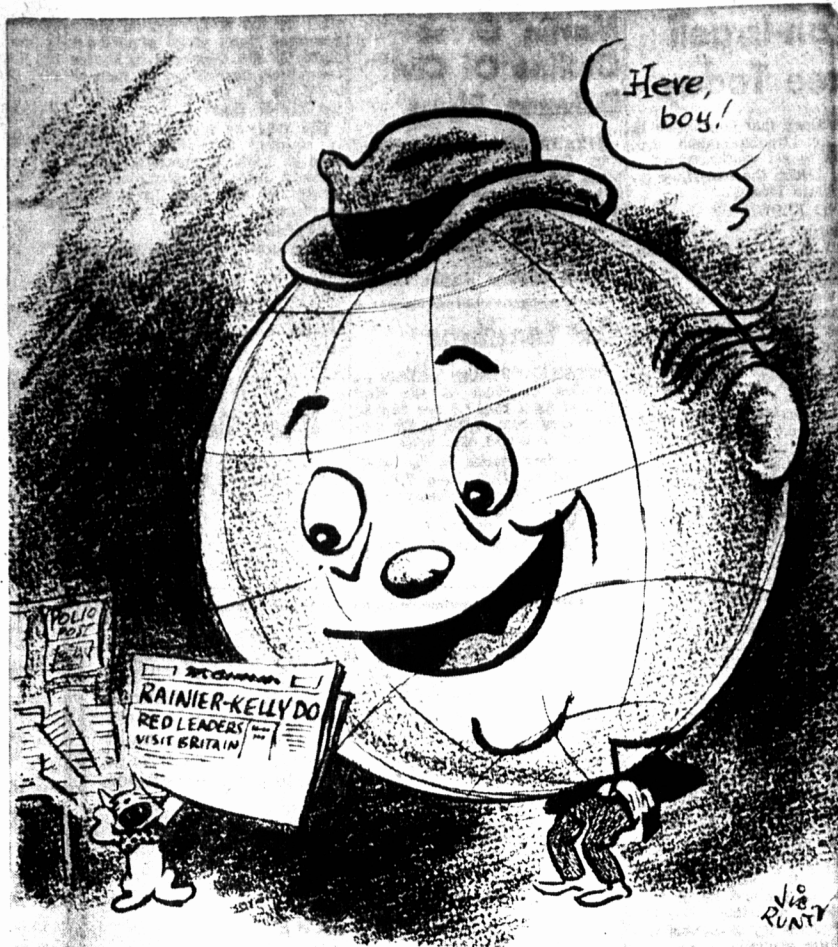
Mr. Streets must be a brave man, for these are brave words. Whatever chance he had of becoming Governor six months ago he has none now; for, unfortunately, sanity and reason and persuasion are not the tools which, in the matter of racial relations in the Southern United States at this time, brings political preferment. But, some day, one likes to believe, when Wisdom's voice is heard more clearly in the streets, Peaslee Streets will be honoured as one who preferred the moral teachings of his parents to the doctrine of racial animosity. For the moment, he must be satisfied with the status of a voice crying in the wilderness.

EDITORIAL NOTES

An astronomer reports that his research indicates there are conscious beings on several of the planets and their system of communications are better than ours. If that, being interpreted, means that they are able to witness earthly events, they certainly have no lack of amusement!

Prime Minister Eden is in receipt of a unique gift from the British League of Empire Loyalists. It is a spoon with a handle ten feet long. An official of the League, which has been protesting against the visit of the Soviet leaders to Britain, said the members were acting on the old proverb: "Who supps with the devil should use a long spoon."

Whatever else may be said about the attempts to bring the benefits of "white civilization" to the native population of Canada's northlands, they seem to be producing results in at least one particular. "When hunting was the only means of subsistence," says a report published by the Smithsonian Institution, "the average Eskimo woman bore a child only once in several years. With the new diet she has one about every year".



"IT'S LOVE THAT MAKES THE WORLD GO 'ROUND'"

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.

DRAMA OPPORTUNITY

Sir.—As one interested in drama in our Province, I was delighted to learn that "Angel Street," a Little Theatre Guild production, directed by Mrs. Rebe Scanlebury and winner of the P. E. I. Regional Drama Festival had been one of eight, across Canada, to be invited to compete in the Final Festival of Dominion Drama Festivals, to be held this year in Sherbrooke, P.Q.

I wonder, however, how much this news means to Charlottetownians, Islanders and Maritimers in general. As "Angel Street" is the only play chosen from the Maritimes to compete, it means that it was the best play produced in the Maritimes, this year, and is going to represent the Maritimes against the rest of Canada. The other plays invited were from Vancouver, Calgary, St. Boniface, London, Toronto, Ottawa and Montreal. Surely, this is a feather in the cap of Charlottetown and of Prince Edward Island. Charlotte-town, in particular, should be grateful to The Little Theatre Guild for producing this play.

Now, being a winner and being invited to compete in the Final Festival is not all beer and skittles. The trip to Sherbrooke needs to be financed and roughly and unofficially I would estimate the cost to be \$1,000. The director and cast of "Angel Street" propose putting on another performance of their play before going to Sherbrooke to help in paying these expenses, and all I have to say is that they deserve a full house; yes, two or three full houses. Citizens of Charlottetown and environs can show their appreciation by purchasing tickets for this performance or these performances without question and without delay. Moreover, the performance of one of the best eight plays produced in Canada, this year. The price of a ticket will be considerably less than audiences in Sherbrooke will pay to see the same play. In New York, tickets for a play as good as "Angel Street" would cost double the Sherbrooke price or more. Local patrons there-

OUR YESTERDAYS

From The Guardian Files
TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO
(April 19, 1931)

The men of Pownal are busy these days paying their road tax shovelling snow. Some of the banks which gathered by the hedges are six and seven feet deep.

At a Kensington Town Council meeting held Monday night, Mr. Gerald MacLean was elected from a large number of applications to fill the office of policeman for the town. Mr. MacLean succeeds Mr. Stewart Matthew who is retiring to Elmsdale.

The newsprint groups represented by Canada Power and Paper Corporation, Abilibi, St. Lawrence Corporation and Price Brothers Limited, have announced a cut in price of their products of \$3.00 per ton retroactive from the beginning of 1951.

TEN YEARS AGO
(April 19, 1946)

If the City Council allows the proposed new bus service to get a foothold in Charlottetown "a lot of people are going to be knocked out of business" Mr. Frank Acorn told a special meeting of the Council Thursday evening.

Miss Mary E. Chaisson, Montreal, arrived in the City Wednesday to spend Easter with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. John F. Chaisson, Bear River, who will celebrate their golden wedding anniversary on Easter Sunday.

7,977 persons have been X-rayed in Charlottetown during the last two weeks by the Mobile X-ray unit, it was disclosed today. In cluded among them is practically 100 per cent of the City's school population.

The Age Old Story

Human laughter at its best, at its most musical, we are often told, "chimes." Or it "peals." A beautiful woman's laughter, as the novelist insists, must be "bell-like." A fine man's "rings" through the hall. "Silvery" laughter, we take it, has the sheen of silver bells in it.—Christian Science Monitor

fore will be getting good value for their money while backing our entry in Dominion-wide competition. The Little Theatre Guild does not want to ask for cash contributions. It will be quite satisfied if the citizens of Charlottetown will help to the extent of filling the auditorium for one performance. Surely the Guild can expect that much support.

I am, Sir, etc.,
J. A. LAWSON,
Chairman, P. E. I. Regional Com-mittee, Dominion Drama Festival.

SPRING FEVER

Sir:—Today at noon as I passed and looked out over a country view of this Island, it suddenly dawned upon me that Spring had actually arrived.

The lawn had put away its blanket of winter white and there was new green peeking through on the slope. At the corner of the garden perched high on an old poplar tree, sat a very happy Robin. There was a warm breeze, the sky was bright with white clouds drifting by and the sun brightly shining. All this is ours, and I am sure should make the old feel young and the young so happy to be alive.

With this we hear daily complaints of roads, etc. Are people ever satisfied? I wonder if some of them want to be. Let us look at the bright side for a change. You who read this may think I have a bad case of Spring Fever; in closing my only wish is that more people would catch it too!

I am, Sir, etc.,
J.
Long Creek, P. E. I.

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Medically Speaking

By Herman N. Bundesen, M. D.

A NEW WORD IS ADDED TO YOUR VOCABULARY

A new word has been added to your vocabulary recently—brain-washing.

We've heard a good deal about how it was used on our soldiers held prisoner by the Chinese Communists. And we'll probably hear more about it in the future. Why do some become victims of this technique while others successfully resist?

COMPLEX PROBLEM

This is a complex problem and many things must be taken into consideration. But two doctors at Louis have come up with a simplified explanation.

Behavior, Drs. George Winokur and Peter S. Santucci report is the result of mental, verbal and motor activity. Behavior usually is learned either by positive reward or by relief from fear.

A prisoner of war, for example may be forced to write pro-Communist statements and sing Communist songs while still not accepting such activities. Yet, when the promise of a reward is given, the doctors explain, behavior is reinforced.

INTERNAL CONFLICT

If he does not believe in his activities, an internal conflict arises between his speech and motor responses and his thinking.

Drs. Winokur and Santucci explained that three paths are then open to the prisoner to resolve this conflict. He can outwit his captors, refuse to do their bidding or accept their teachings.

Obviously the first two methods will bring punishment and no rewards.

If the prisoner has a strong educational and social background and has an insight into political affairs, he is probably more able to accept short-lived punishment and refuse to do what his captors wish.

On the other hand, a prisoner with no formal education and no interest in political or socio-economic developments is likely to become confused when lectured on controversial topics. Often he will absorb the ideas offered him.

Once he is repatriated, this prisoner is apt to become confused again and another conflict arises between his thinking and that of the society to which he has been returned.

QUESTION AND ANSWER

Q: Is it possible for an enlarged liver to return to its normal size?

A: It depends upon the cause of the enlargement. If it is due to heart disease, once the heart disease is corrected, the liver enlargement usually clears up. The same applies to liver infections in most instances.

However, if the enlargement is due to cancer or to cirrhosis of the liver that has remained untreated too long, the enlargement usually persists.

NOTES BY THE WAY

Mr. Speaker says members of the Opposition are trying to embarrass the Government politically. How low can they sink—Windsor Star

In 70 per cent of all first car accidents, one or both drivers violated one or more safety laws. That's a fact that must be driven home, if more people are to drive home instead of being carried there.—Brantford Expositor

Two women dining in a restaurant were discussing a third who had just made her entrance. "Her husband was a judge, wasn't he?" the first asked. "Everybody thought so," replied the other, "until he married her."—Fort Myers (Fla.) News

Newfoundland's premier, Mr. Joseph Smallwood, laments that his province's political system is in danger "because of the fact that the Opposition party is so weak" Whatever Mr. Smallwood's motives in making such a statement there can be no doubt of its truth; a continued weak opposition is both an invitation to bad government and a threat to our parliamentary system.—Ottawa Journal

Hard-pressed transit systems in Canada are doubtless keenly interested in that row in Alabama, where they are trying to put people in jail for not riding the buses.—Edmonton Journal

Many of us in our giving are like young Betty who had a dime to spend on an ice cream cone. The minister suggested she give the money to missions, instead. "I thought about that," said the little girl, "but I decided to buy the ice cream cone and let the druggist give the dime to missions."—Greenville (SC) Piedmont

That usually cautious moderate politician, Mr. J.M. Macdonnell, has been giving hospitality to rumors that Mr. St. Laurent is planning to retire. Chuck the rumors, Mr. Macdonnell! For whatever Mr. St. Laurent may be thinking during those long silences of his on the treasury benches he must surely know that there is about as much chance of his getting out of the clutches of his party and colleagues, before the next election as there is chance of the average inmate escaping from Portsmouth penitentiary.—Ottawa Journal

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