

THE GUARDIAN

Authorized as Second Class Mail Post Office Department, Ottawa. The Island Guardian Publishing Co. Editor and Managing Director, Ian A. Burnett, Associate Editor, Frank Walker. CIRCULATION "Covers Prince Edward Island like the dew" "The strongest memory is weaker than the weakest ink" CHARLOTTETOWN SATURDAY, OCT. 24, 1953 U. N. Day

In the dark days of 1941 President Roosevelt proclaimed the ideal of the Four Freedoms for a war-sick world; Freedom of Speech, Freedom of Worship, Freedom from Want, and Freedom from Fear. Eight years ago today the charter of the United Nations came into effect and mankind took a long first step towards the achievement of those freedoms.

First and foremost came the need for peace, for without peace the other aspirations must come to naught. The United Nations then had only five years before aggression broke out on June 25, 1950, a much shorter time than the League of Nations had to prepare for the invasion of Manchuria in 1931 and that of Abyssinia in 1935. This time, however, the nations stood behind the invaded country and for three years combined resources to halt aggression. It is to be hoped that the lesson has been driven home to all nations which might be tempted to embark on a career of military expansion.

The other objectives, vital although secondary to the first, have been vigorously pursued by means of various specialized agencies of the United Nations, including UNESCO, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, which has undertaken ambitious programmes to help all nations attain their highest economic and cultural level; the World Health Organization; the Food and Agriculture Organization; the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund and many others. All have worked for worldwide peace, justice and progress.

Although the United Nations is an organization whose members are governments, yet it is essential that the people of the nations should interest themselves in its activities and aid in carrying out its objectives. The United Nations Association in Canada, which is organizing a branch in this Province, offers an opportunity for such service to humanity.

Challenge To Universities

So much nonsense has been talked about "modern" educational requirements that it is refreshing to read a recent address by His Excellency the Governor General, Rt. Hon. Vincent Massey, on the real challenge to our institutions of higher learning in this day and age. Speaking at the University College Centenary in Toronto last week, His Excellency said in part:

"Some one said recently that universities should teach the 'why' and allow life to teach the 'how'. The modern university has become much concerned with the 'how' and nothing troubles the wise educationist more than this trend of today. This is often described as a scientific age. It would, perhaps, be more accurate to describe it as a technical age. Scientists, if we use that honorable term in its proper sense, are relatively few, but so important is their function that the army of technicians who give practical expression to their researches, constantly increases in numbers, and technological training must grow proportionately. Technology has been defined, perhaps a little ungenerously, as 'a long Greek name for a bag of tools.' But universities are primarily concerned not with the tools so much as with the men and the women who use them.

"If a university exists to preserve and promote all truly useful knowledge, I would like to suggest that the most useful knowledge to which any of us can attain, or strive to attain, is a knowledge of the nature and meaning of life. This must be central. Everything else hangs on it, and gains meaning and purpose from it. Such knowledge has, in the past, been associated with those studies which we call the humanities. This monopoly has long been questioned, and no doubt with some reason.

"But, whatever the vehicle used, I think we have now too long been speaking of the humanities as some used to speak of poverty, about which, it is agreed, something should be done. The humanities are not objects of academic charity. They still hold their central place as the studies through which any understanding of human life must be chiefly, if not exclusively, sought. Long regarded as luxuries, they seem now, having slipped to the periphery of our academic concentration, to be in some danger of being clipped off altogether.

"For the magic of the human heart and the mystery of the human mind we are content to substitute what we are pleased to

call 'practical' things. And we are prepared to discard the vision of the poet, the insight of the philosopher, the imagination of the historian, and the reasoned faith of the theologian in favor of psychological analysis, statistical determination and scientific experiments. All these last are excellent in themselves, but they are no substitutes. An analysis of the symptoms of life does not necessarily give a meaning to life itself.

"All the new trends to which I have referred, it may be said, are a part of the whole climate of opinion. The neglect of the humanities is doubtless not a cause, but a symptom of an age yielding to the delights of materialism. . . . But any symptom which aggravates the sickness as this one does, must be treated as a malady in its own right. The treatment is obvious. It is for the universities now so to use their traditional freedom that they may resume their universal function. They should not necessarily cut off or curtail any useful activity. They should rather strive to redress the balance, to restore a true perspective, to define with clarity and firmness what are the essential values in education as distinct from training."

Surplus Animal Fats

Animal byproducts, notes the Wall Street Journal, are mired in a price slump that's shutting processing plants.

Besides meat, farm animals yield such major products as shoemaking hides, soap-making tallow and meat scraps, an important livestock-feed ingredient. Lately over 45 of the rendering plants that produce these things have closed their doors because of depressed prices. Most of these have been small, high-cost plants in rural areas.

Tallow sells in the Chicago market at just over four cents a pound, a penny under a year ago and only about one-sixth of the 1947 peak.

It has suffered severely from the rise of synthetic soaps, which don't use tallow. Meat scraps containing 50 per cent protein were worth about \$115 a ton a year ago; they now bring as little as \$85. They've had keen rivalry from other feed materials. And a leading grade of hides is priced at 16 cents a pound, against 18 cents a year ago and 44 cents at the 1951 pinnacle. Hides have also felt the competition of synthetic materials.

Renderers are pushing research to uncover new outlets for their products. One already found is the use of animal fats to enrich livestock feed.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Tomorrow, the 21st Sunday after Trinity, 22nd after Pentecost.

An international conference in London has agreed on a uniform musical pitch, specifying that the note A in the treble clef shall be 440 cycles a second. Such agreements have been attempted in the past but are usually spoiled by musicians tuning to a higher pitch in order to obtain a "brighter" effect.

Very serious indeed is the statement of the Hon. Eugene P. Cullen in the House that lobster poaching was spreading. The lobster industry regularly takes practically all the lobsters of legal size each year, so that poaching results in a serious loss to law-abiding fishermen. When under-sized lobsters are taken it also means an over-all loss to the industry.

The treaty of Westphalia, ending the Thirty Years' War was signed at Munster this date 1648. The Holy Roman Empire failed in its attempt to renew its control over the German states. Gustavus Adolphus, King of Sweden, had done much to weaken the Hapsburgs, as had the Dutch. Dutch and Swiss independence was recognized by the treaty, which also marks the beginning of French hegemony in Europe.

Frenchmen and others have been celebrating the 150th anniversary of the death of the man who introduced the potato into that country. Antoine-Augustin Parmentier risked violence from the populace by his experiments but now a plaque has been dedicated to his memory in the Court of Honour in the Invalides. A speaker at the ceremony noted that a cross with the tomato has now produced a potato growing above ground.

The announced withdrawal of the United States from providing 14 of the 25 ships which man the ten North Atlantic Ocean Weather Stations almost certainly means the end of that operation which has contributed to weather knowledge since 1946. Since weather moves generally eastwardly the service is of value to the United States only for air operations abroad. The move is unfortunate, however, because on this continent it is desirable to increase the amount of weather information from other sources including Russia.

Habitual Offender



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.

RECKLESS DRIVING

Sir,—There was an Hebrew King who was notorious for his fast driving. He was a big, powerful fellow, known far and wide over Judah and Israel, and greatly feared. One day a watchman, standing on his tower, east of the Jordan valley saw a driver coming in a war-chariot, horses galloping with thundering noise that could be heard a mile away. Some one asked: "Who is that coming?" The watch replied: "The driving is like that of Jehu for he driveth furiously." Jehu was well known for his mad driving. Before that he had probably killed several people and among them a little boy who had strayed from his parents onto the road. In his pride as King he was showing off as one way of making an impression. It was not his business to guard against killing people on the road. They ought to keep out of his way. Speed is one way to make an impression. It makes the whole country-side stand and look, and ask: "Who is that who passed at seventy miles?" He gets his name up. People talk about him and they hear of the crash. Some one is killed, perhaps more than one. It gets into the papers and then everybody is talking and saying: "It is just what I expected."

A driver with a couple of drinks under his belt always drives fast. Drink has blunted his judgment, impaired his eyesight, and given him a reckless mind. Caution is thrown to the winds. He abandons himself to the exhilaration stirring in his brain; and he forgets he is driving a car with others aboard and passing others on the road. Alcohol always does that. It makes people reckless. I once heard of an East Indian, contemplating the murder of the man who had stolen something from him. I found him walking back and forth on the road with his cutlass waiting for his man to appear. He had taken drink to make him brave. He was not himself at all. I coaxed him to give me his cutlass and go away home. It probably saved his neck. Alcohol does that; and right now inside of car drivers it is doing a great deal of damage to life and property. Drinking boys are not the only speeders, and there is no need of it. Very, very rarely is there any need of driving at more than forty. It is relaxing to drive along through this beautiful country at a leisurely speed and enjoy one's self and let others share the pleasure. Why hurry, as many do, as though they don't expect to live much longer. It is no good sign of well-mannered people.

In other provinces in Canada and especially in the U. S., the governments are making the best possible highways, rubbing out the curves, and removing every possible cause of accident, and yet accidents occur, in spite of all that is being done to make the road safe. The straighter the road and the better the bed, the greater the speed. I see the newest cars produced in England to be sold in Canada can do ninety of one hundred miles. We had better become men and women of sound judgment before those cars come here, or we are heading for more trouble. I am, Sir, etc., W. I. GREEN, Stanley Bridge.

The Age Old Story

The writing of Hezekiah king of Judah, when he had been sick, and was recovered of his sickness; I said in the cutting off of my days, I shall go to the gates of the grave; I am deprived of the

Notes By The Way

Once you have children, you might as well edit those His and Hers towels to read Theirs.—Hamilton Spectator.

We would be more interested in this advice about how to invest our savings if they'd explain where to get the savings.—Brandon Sun.

A new era of exploration has begun on Cape Breton Island. The aerial survey now underway of the island south of latitude 46

The Migrants

(New York Times) The birds gather for migration, restless and gregarious, busy but nowhere near so full of song as they were three months ago. In a pasture beside a woodland are at least two dozen flickers, which do not often think of as flock birds. Down the road is a congregation of robins. High overhead, riding the thermals above the ridges, are half a dozen hawks putting on an aerial display that makes one catch his breath in wonder. Restless, all of them, with the inner urge that will soon send them southward.

We know relatively little about migration. We have charted certain flight patterns, and timed the average travel. We know about when each species starts south, and we know roughly how far they go and how long they stay. Nightwatchers are now taking a flight census which will probably add new knowledge. But when all the available knowledge is totaled up—great areas of mystery remain. Even such a simple question as why a few robins fail to migrate each year is still unanswered. So is the question of whether the migrants follow food or daylight or temperature.

It could be, of course, that migration itself is nowhere near as complex a matter as we think. Birds are inhabitants of a big world, at home in the air, which has no insurmountable barriers. It may be that a bird's world is like a farmer's farm, except vastly larger. When a farmer's upper pasture thins out he moves his cows to the lower pasture for a season. It's really not much more complex for a flock of robins to move from New York to Virginia or the Carolinas. They don't have to pack luggage or make reservations or send the dog to a kennel. They just up and go. And a good many of them seem to be making up their minds just now to do just that.

residue of my years, I said, I shall not see the Lord, even the Lord in the land of the living; I shall behold man no more with the inhabitants of the world.

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The Passing Scene

By Observer CONCERNING SPEED A noted psychiatrist says that unless people give up their desire for "speed and more speed" there will be no need of the hydrogen bomb to destroy life on the earth. He predicts that at the rate we are going another hundred years or so will see the decline and fall of the human species. An additional hundred will see its virtual disappearance. Of course, there is a possibility that the hydrogen bomb won't wait nearly as long as that, in which case the prediction will not have a chance to prove itself. It's a gloomy view, to be sure, but there may be something in it. Certainly the mania for speed is one of the distinguishing marks of our time. And, apparently, there is no way to satisfy it.

The aeroplane that does not travel faster than sound is rapidly becoming obsolete. As for automobiles, some engineers are already talking about a normal speed of two hundred miles per hour. Others are on record as saying that in fifty years or less the steam engine will be a thing of the past on account of its extremely low speed potential. Genius is now briskly engaged in thinking up rocket cars, rocket locomotives, and rocket ships. One technologist, whose scientific curiosity is balanced by a good sense of humour, says that the day is not far off when walking even as far as the nearest mail-box will be unnecessary exertion. There will be a rocket gadget for all the little chores of the day.

It is not only in transportation, however, that man is rapidly falling victim to his insatiable craze for speed. There is scarcely a department of life where the pace does not appear. The philosopher who said that "the worst sin is to be everlasting in a hurry, for that destroys both soul and body" was never taken too seriously, but up to a few years ago he was grudgingly accorded a certain measure of respect. Now, he is numbered among the mischief-makers and his provocative statement among the elements of moral and mental subversion. It is a fact that hardly anybody knows how to relax even when there is nothing particular that needs doing. Even the artists seem to have surrendered their traditional and inalienable right to be lazy in the proper times and seasons.

Every youngster is encouraged to cultivate the "Quiz Kid" temperament and there is humiliation in store for the luckless one who doesn't know all the answers by the time he reaches the venerable age of discretion. Precociousness, which comes ready-made, not good manners which have to be tailored, is frequently regarded as the one thing needful. The "go-getter", regardless of what he may manage to get, is the hero of present day society.

Short courses, grave impediments to learning, are in great demand and even greater supply. The discipline of long, thorough training in anything from cobbling to philosophy (or vice versa) is much frowned upon. In fact, any kind of discipline, except that which can be administered in one quick stroke, is simply out of the picture. Hardly anyone believes the old adage, "there is no royal road to learning." More and more, people are demanding that their thinking be done for them by specialists, and the specialists are expected to work night and day without rest. Serious reading, except in predigested, capsule form, is getting to be a rarity. The doctor who cannot promise

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