

THE GUARDIAN

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aneous in a number of countries. Canada should therefore try to have the subject placed on the next agenda of the United Nations General Assembly.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Mr. Gaitskell, British Chancellor of the Exchequer, has stated that the purchasing power of £1, taking 1945 as the base, is now 16s 1d in 1951.

Enthusiasm for Festive Week continues to rise. It will not, of course, be exactly on a par with the Festival of Britain but a lot of people are going to have a time to remember.

Twynkle, a six-year-old British goat, owned jointly by Mrs. B. Short and Miss J. Salmon, of Lustleigh, Devon, has established a world record by giving 6,518 lbs. of milk in a year.

Veterans of the North Novas have many tales to tell of their adventures, both gay and grim, and are now being urged to pass their yarns along to be incorporated in a regimental history being prepared by Mr. Will R. Bird.

There was no possibility of Mr. Abbott's 25 per cent increase in the sales tax not being passed by Parliament but its being imposed since the budget was brought down April 11 is unsound in principle, though sanctioned by recent usage.

A new outlet for Island breeding stock Yorkshires should be provided by such piggeries as that in Dawson Creeks, B. C. where 1000 sows a month are expected to provide weanling pigs for United States farmers. The project will require high quality breeding stock which the Island is well able to supply.

It would be a pity for the Board of Transport Commissioners to leave this Province after spending almost their entire stay here within the Law Courts Building. A look over the Island itself would bear out much of the testimony they have been listening to and make it considerably easier to persuade them to return.

The Scottish Home Rule movement has lost rather than gained by the Stone of Scone episode. As already stated, the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland repudiated the movement, and now Glasgow City Council has refused by 75 votes to 12 to support the Scottish National Covenant Committee in its demand for the return of the Stone of Destiny to Scotland.

Several of the provincial premiers (says The Letter Review) declared that never—no, never—would they inflict a retail turnover tax on consumers, but still they thought the B.N.A. Act should be amended to permit them to do so. Perhaps many people would like the seventh commandment repealed although they intend to remain moral, for the time being.

Mohammed, the founder of Islam, died this date 632. Born at Mecca in 571. He was subject to epileptic fits and experienced extacies and visions. About his fortieth year he told his wife of a visit from the angel Gabriel and the first of those messages which were later incorporated in the Koran. Persecution resulted in the flight to Medina in July 622 which marks the year opening the Mohammedan era as well as being the turning point in the prophet's career.

M.P.'s are toying with the idea of a pension plan for M.P.'s. Under one scheme a defeated M.P. would receive an annual pension amounting to \$200 for every year he had occupied a Commons seat. The 20-year veteran, and there are a few of them, would be entitled to \$4,000. The rookie who was beaten after serving a single four-year term would draw \$800. M.P.'s argue that such a pension is necessary because theirs has become a full-time job. Other businesses dwindle away through neglect when a member is compelled to spend as much time in Ottawa as the modern long sessions of Parliament demand.

Calendar Reform

A report just released by the Canadian Chamber of Commerce brings out clearly the advantages of the proposed World Calendar over the present Gregorian calendar. The defects noted are striking. Schedules are not good for more than a year; there can be no simplicity in making organizational plans, no precision in fixing the dates of holidays or periodic meetings. Accurate comparison of monthly, quarterly, and yearly statistics is impossible. The setting of pay dates is confused by the fact that the same dates do not fall on the same week days. The calculation of time measurements prescribed by law is sometimes difficult. Bond, mortgage, lease, and other regular payments cannot be dated with assurance that they will always fall on business days. The World Calendar would relieve or eliminate all these inconveniences. The views expressed by the Chamber of Commerce are shared by the Trades and Labor Congress of Canada, the Canadian Congress of Labor, and the Canadian and Catholic Confederation of Labor. As the Canadian Manufacturers' Association has pointed out in giving its endorsement, however, the change would have to be simu-

As already announced over Canadian Press, Canada figures prominently in the honours to be conferred at the Encenia to be held at Oxford on June 20th. Recipients include the Governor General, the Prime Minister, and the Secretary of State for External Affairs. Doctorates of Civil Law will be conferred on Field Marshal Viscount Alexander of Tunis, Mr. St. Laurent and Mr. Lester Pearson (who is an Honorary Fellow of St. John's College, Oxford). The Governor-General will be present to receive the degree, but the Prime Minister and Mr. Pearson will be honoured in absentia.

Census Nonsense



Old Charlottetown

(And P. E. I.) MARKET HOUSE SITE 'There is a great anxiety among a certain class of people to have the intended Market House on the west end of Queen Square. To this, however, there are many objections. The first is, that there is not sufficient space; and the second, that a Market House in that particular locality would be as great a nuisance as the present. Squares are intended as inlets for pure air—as ventilators to the adjoining streets, and have hence been denominated the lungs of cities and towns, and we all know that unless the lungs be kept in a healthy state, disease supervenes. 'But, they say, the plan of the town shows that one of these reservations, either that occupied by St. Paul's Church or the old Court House, was set aside for the express purpose of a site for a Market House. Very true, but be it remembered that at the time such reservation was made, people were not so well versed in sanitary lore, as they are at present. Our ancestors rather loved dirt than otherwise, at least they did not esteem the cleanliness of their cities and towns such an all important matter as their posterity very properly do. Besides, since that day, the government have appropriated the centre of Queen Square to the Colonial Building. 'Now, it will be but justice to Charlottetown, if in return for the space so injudiciously taken from its largest and best Square, the Government should provide a proper site for a Market House. The Colonial Building, if permitted to be in the Square, should have been erected at the west end, where some people say the Market House should be built. Let us in the name of common sense, as men sensible of the value of fresh air, and not wholly insensible to the wish of making our newly created City as pleasant as possible, do our utmost to prevent the Square from being further desecrated, and ourselves from being justly designated as void of all principles of taste or science.' —Hazard's Gazette, Oct. 24, 1855.

Made In Germany

(The Printed Word) As a matter of historical interest it may be noted that an old-age pension plan was part of Bismarck's welfare and embryo totalitarian state. The plan came into operation in Germany some time in the 1880's. There probably were some elderly Germans who benefited from the scheme in its early days, but after the First World War and the subsequent inflation of the German mark, the value of German old-age pensions sank to zero. The German experience was the worst, but none of the few countries that have adopted old-age pension plans has much reason to pride itself on the results. The inflationary effects of the collections and payments destroy much of the benefit expected and help to add to the burden of those who are old-fashioned enough to be thrifty and self-supporting.

Pioneer Of Press Freedom

(The Certified News) Freedom of the press has become a fighting slogan of the editorial world and some people overlook the fact that the principle was formulated largely as a protection to printers before editors were numerous enough to be organized. When a pamphlet appeared that offended official dignity, it was sometimes hard to put a finger on the author; often easier to get tough with the printer. England demanded, in early times, that the matter be licensed by the Stationers Guild. The Guild, in turn, submitted it to various kinds of censorship, according to the subject matter. The man who broke this licensing system down was John Milton, best remembered as a poet whose diction is excelled only by that of Shakespeare. However, Milton was a fighting pamphleteer during the greater part of his life. As a sort of public relations officer for Cromwell, he upheld the right of parliament to depose and punish a king who overstepped his authority. The beheading of Charles I had jettisoned all the courts of Europe. Devotees of monarchy thundered from every capital. They thundered in Latin and it took a scholar and debater of Milton's caliber to answer them. He seems to have done it to the satisfaction of history.

Calendar Reform

Another of his campaigns had to do with divorce. His own tragic misadventure made him an advocate of more lenient divorce laws. A pamphlet on this subject was issued without license. Of course it could not have withstood censorship. When opponents raised the cry that he had evaded the licensing

The Poets Corner

STARS Now in the West the slender moon lies low, And now Orion glimmers through the trees, Clearing the earth with even pace and slow; And now the stately-moving Pleiades, In that soft infinite darkness overhead, Hang jewel-wise upon a silver thread. And all the lonelier stars that have their place, Calm lamps within the distant southern sky, And planet-dust upon the edge of space, Look down upon the fretful world. And I Look up to outer vastness unafraid, And see the stars which sang when earth was made. —Marjorie Pickthall.

The Age-Old Story

O the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! how unsearchable are his judgments, and his ways past finding out! . . . For of him, and through him, and to him, are all things: to whom be glory for ever. Amen.

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Notes By The Way

Is the loser in an Australian election an Aussie? ran?—(London Free Press) 'T'would be a better world if as many people lent a hand as are willing to give advice.—(Saskatoon Star-Phoenix.) You and I and the rest of this generation will never live again in a peacetime economy.—(Archbishop Richard J. Cushing of Boston.) Even a king likes to celebrate his birthday and His Majesty's present illness has cut him out of whatever public or domestic enjoyments were planned. The illness, by all accounts, is not serious, but it seems to be one of those stubborn infections which are hard to track down and eliminate. Patience and more patience are required for a cure. Even if King George cannot himself be out and about today, there are many of his subjects, here and elsewhere, who are remembering him and honoring him for his unselfish and devoted services. May his health be quickly restored.—(Montreal Star.) From what the Postmaster-General of Canada says, politics are so far removed from the Post Office that there can be no truth whatsoever in the old joke about the man whose application was turned down. It was true that he was politically very acceptable. But the postal authorities didn't quite see how they could make a postmaster of a man who couldn't read or write. When this objection was raised, the applicant was utterly astonished. 'But,' he protested, 'I'm applying for a job as postmaster. I'm not applying for a job as deputy postmaster!'—(Montreal Gazette.) The Moscow radio recently announced that a Canadian woman was heading a commission in North Korea to investigate 'crimes by imperialist interventionists in Korea.' The Canadian Press has disclosed that the woman in question is Mrs. Nora Rodd of Windsor. Now if Mrs. Rodd on her return to Canada will tell the truth about what is going on in Iron Curtain countries—about the slave labor camps, the thought control and terror—perhaps her trip will not have been entirely useless. But if she returns to the safety of the Dominion only to spout propaganda about 'imperialist interventionists', the lady will be one Rodd Canada could well spare.—(Winnipeg Tribune.) Perhaps the greatest part of the immense debt which music on this continent and in this generation owes to Serge Koussevitzky was the chance he gave music-lovers everywhere to hear what was most worthy of survival in the work of modern composers. For 27 years conductor of the Boston Symphony Orchestra, which from the days of Carl Muck had sunk steadily into obscurity, Koussevitzky built into it perhaps the greatest symphonic orchestra in America. He introduced his Boston audiences to such composers as Sibelius, Honegger, Grieg, Walton, Kodaly and others. It is perhaps not too great an exaggeration to say that the wide familiarity of today's listeners to music with the work of such men as these had its beginnings in Koussevitzky's insistence upon performing them, to the bewilderment and consternation of the great majority of his hearers, born and bred in the tradition of the 'classics'. To him is also due the Berkshire mid-summer musical festivals begun at Tanglewood in 1934 and the Berkshire School in 1940, between them the foundation for that American music centre which was the Boston conductor's dream. The sum of his contribution to musical knowledge and appreciation on this continent is far beyond that of other conductors of more sensational and publicity-seeking methods. Thanks to radio, the record and, it seems altogether probable, in time, to television, the work of such great conductors as Koussevitzky and Toscanini is a part of our cultural heritage. Not only Boston, but the world of music is poorer because of his death.—(Montreal Star.)

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