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The London Act
In the long and difficult road towards a united Europe the agreement reached at London on Sunday is a most important milestone.

Probably British and United States participation in long-term European defence was the critical factor which made success possible.

When the definitive treaties have been drawn up and NATO takes action to admit Germany there will be a united front of nations who have no aggressive aims.

It is the old story that if you wish for peace, it is necessary to prepare for war.

Colombo Plan Meeting

Ottawa is the scene of the mid-way meeting of the six-year Colombo Plan consultative committee.

The annual meeting of the consultative committee does, however, survey the progress that has been made and help to coordinate the efforts being made to raise the standard of living of that quarter of the world's population which lives in the Colombo Plan area.

Relief is not the basis of the Plan's operations but emergency requirements have made it necessary at times to include relief measures in its application.

The contributions of Canada and other countries outside the area of the Plan, although important, are in quantity a very small part of the funds intended to be spent.

A Joint Appeal

Roman Catholic, Protestant, and Jewish religious leaders in the United States have joined in an appeal to the Republican and Democratic Parties to adopt "a fair elections-practices declaration which would help to eliminate racial and religious prejudice from the 1954 Congressional campaign."

worthy of a nation founded on the principles of the brotherhood of man and the fatherhood of God.

It is probable that the leaders of both political parties will give ear to this appeal; but that will not mean a sudden end to corrupt political practices in all areas of the United States.

Fire Prevention

The family that has been burned out knows the importance of precautions against fire. It is no less important to those whose personal acquaintance with conflagration is still to come.

Carelessness with matches and cigarettes, faulty heating systems, electrical hazards, dangerous cleaning fluids and rubbish permitted to collect in cellars and attics all contribute to the toll from fire.

When a fire has started it is somewhat late to consider ways and means of dealing with it. A great deal of property damage and, more important, loss of life could be prevented if more of us adopted the Boy Scout motto, "Be Prepared".

It is for this reason that the educational work carried on with the support of the fire fighting authorities is so important.

EDITORIAL NOTES

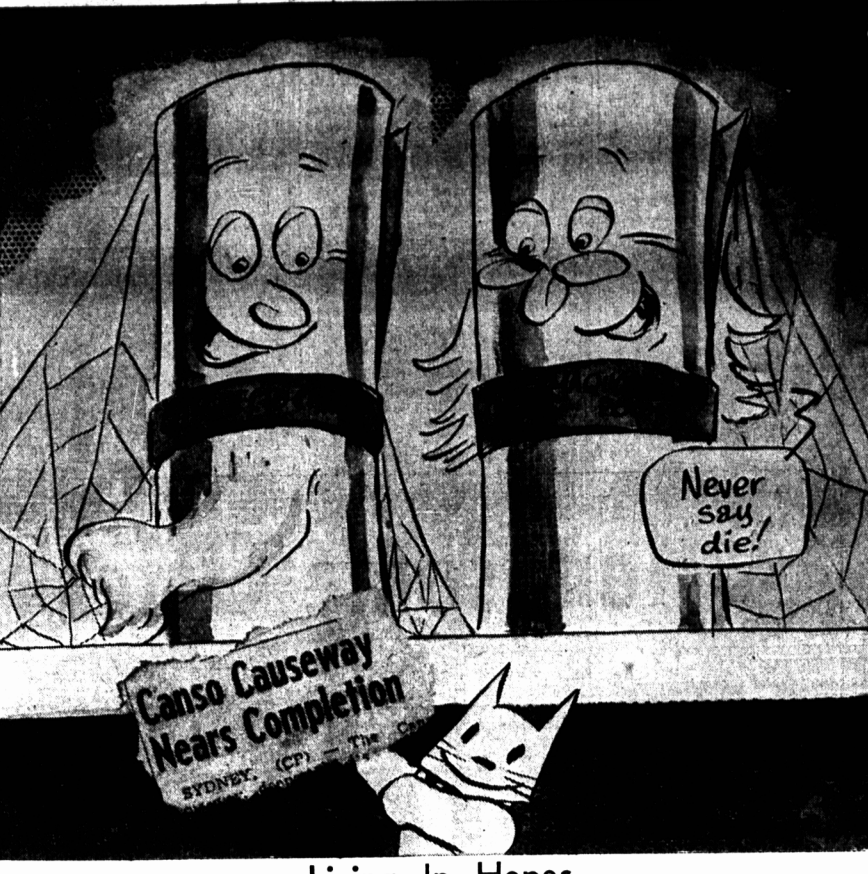
Transportation is recognized as one of the most serious problems facing the Maritimes. It is also about the most difficult to resolve, being a consequence of political boundaries being at variance with geographical relationships.

Jacques Offenbach (the name was his own choice), German-French composer, died this date 1880. He spent most of his life in Paris, managing various theatres and composing and producing nearly 100 light stage pieces.

A small penitentiary for the segregation of the most hardened criminals may result from the investigation into recent rioting at Kingston, according to Justice Minister Stuart Garson.

Eastern Europe, that is to say the Communist satellite countries, will be short of food this winter, according to the U. S. Information Agency. As this continent is suffering from excess production of various foodstuffs it would seem to be a time to get back to old fashioned trading.

The national and Maritime conferences of the Community Planning Association are being held at Saint John this week. The organizations represented do not go in for community planning themselves but are engaged in the task of convincing citizens and governments that a community whose development is planned can be more economical and pleasant to live in than one which, like Topsy, "just grew".



Living In Hopes

The Mysteries Of Flame

(Financial Post)

Where do fires come from? That's the question constantly before those whose job is preventing fires—not only in Fire Prevention Week, but throughout the year.

Origins of fires are not too hard to pinpoint—only 8,000 of last year's 67,500 fires in Canada were listed "cause unknown." But to put the blame on careless smoking or spontaneous ignition is to tell only part of the story.

Carelessness of many kinds—with tobacco, with fireplaces, with gasoline—is responsible for nine-tenths of all fires, say the experts.

William Larkin of the Missouri Inspection Bureau recently called attention to some basic facts about the cause and prevention of fires. Here's what he said:

Ordinarily we think of heat as the result of fire. Actually heat is the cause of fire. We are all familiar with the wooden match. Our thinking is that matches cause fires. Perhaps our thinking does not follow all the way through.

What is the source of the oxygen? We live in an atmosphere which contains oxygen—21% by volume. Most of the substances we use are capable of combining chemically with oxygen.

Prevention of fire in ordinary combustible materials consists mainly of the elimination of sources of ignition such as open flames and sparks and the separation of the combustible material from sources of heat by an air gap or by the use of insulating material.

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.

POTATO MEETING

Sir,—The meeting in the Forum on Wednesday night was a terrible disappointment to many. My faith in and my high regard for the people of P. E. I. received a great shock that night.

I am, Sir, etc., G. R. McKEAN, Cherry Valley, P.E.I.

DALHOUSIE UNIVERSITY

Sir,—The matter of ownership and control of public institutions established and maintained by various groups or individuals arises. After all, directors, managers, governors or other executives are only trustees for those whose work and money set up these establishments.

The University of New Brunswick is carried on as part of the education system of that province, though it has been helped by private benefactors. It is part of the public estate and reaches out to all who wish to share in what it has to give.

I am, Sir, etc., G. R. McKEAN, Wolfville, N. S.

extinguishers such as the carbon dioxide and dry chemical types. (4) Take away the fuel by closing valves in pipe lines for flammable liquids or combustible gases.

Put Out Fire
Now suppose we put out the fire. If we remove any one of the three conditions necessary for a fire, combustion will cease. We can:

Old Charlottetown

and P. E. I.

GOVERNOR'S SALARY

From a despatch from Lord Russell, Secretary of State for the Colonies, Downing Street, London, to Lieutenant Governor Sir Charles A. Fitzroy, 16th November 1840:

"My attention has been called by the Governor General of British North America, to the amount of salary which you receive as Lieutenant Governor of Prince Edward Island, and to the necessity of augmenting it, to enable you to defray the unavoidable expenses which your official station entails upon you."

"On referring to the records of this Department, I find that the salary of the Lieutenant Governor was in the year 1825, raised from £800 to £1000 sterling, per annum. At this amount it has remained to the present time—while the great increase which has since taken place in the population of the Island, must have subjected the head of the local society to a scale of expenditure far exceeding that of official income, and which is likely to be still further enhanced, by the facilities afforded by steam navigation to persons desirous of settling in the Colony, or passing to other parts of North America."

"Under these circumstances, I agree with Lord Sydneyham that an addition ought to be made to your salary; and I think that a net income of £2000 sterling, without any fees or travelling allowance would not be more than is required to maintain the dignity of your office as Representative of the Sovereign."

The Poet's Corner

ONLY THE FISHERMAN

Only the fisherman upon the lake In the long vigil of a summer day Can know the simple secret of a spell Which sight and sound and silence will betray.

Only the fisherman can see the woods Shadowed and glistening, scented, fresh, and cool Through the steep rising slopes of rock and pine

Where he may watch a crag-born rill descend And whiten over fall and pebbled stream

Or listen to the cry of water bird Echoing across the tableau of a dream.

The angler, drifting; now with feathered on the shadowed inlet, shimmering in the sun

Is nearer to the meadowed hills above Than those who gaze from where the roadways run.

—Catherine Haydon Jacobs in New York Herald-Tribune.

The Passing Scene

By Observer RESPONSIBLE SOCIETY

On the assumption that readers of this column are not already versed with World Council diet, I give a few further excerpts from the report issued at the conclusion of the Second Assembly. On the subject of relations between Christians in non-Communist countries the report had this to say: "We are called to hold one another in special brotherly concern across all barriers. Those of us who live in non-Communist lands affirm our Christian unity with these Churches in ecumenical fellowship. We rejoice with them in their Christian witness which they make in their new circumstances and seek to understand and affirm our fellowship with them in their temptations and in their Christian hope; for this witness is also to our own responsibility."

Christians in Communist countries were asked to ponder a long list of questions included in which were the following: (1) What is the content of Christian witness in the face of atheistic ideologies? (2) What are the values and dangers of agreements between Church and State? (3) How far are public statements by the Churches of social justice and responsibility avoid both surrender to Communism and the temptations of a negative resistance? (4) What is the social significance of the existence of the Church as an inclusive worshipping community, and how does the Church's teaching relate to state education under a Communist regime?

There were questions for Christians in non-Communist lands as well, viz: (1) In what way, if any, does secularism in non-Communist countries differ from the materialism in the Communist world? (2) What is the content of Christian witness toward the large mass of secularized people? (3) What is the responsibility of the Churches for the cultivation of freedom and community over against the growing pressure toward social conformity?

On the meaning of "Responsible Society" (a sectional heading) there appears this paragraph: "Responsible Society is not an alternative social and political system, but a criterion by which we judge all existing social orders and at the same time a standard to guide us in the specific choices we have to make. Christians are called to live responsibly in any society, even within the most unfavourable social structures."

Here is an interesting paragraph of the report of the government with about equal vigor against those who think the government should exercise full control over community life and those who believe that the doctrine of laissez-faire should govern all things. "While the State is sometimes the enemy of freedom, under many circumstances the State is the only instrument which can make freedom possible for large sectors of the population. The State is not the source of social justice, but it must be its guardian, ready if necessary to accept responsibility to counteract depression or inflation and to relieve the impact of unemployment, industrial injury, low wages, and unfavourable working conditions, sickness and old age. But, in doing so, the State remains the servant, not the lord, of social justice."

Those persons who take the view that democratic socialism (the

He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the tree of life, which is in the midst of the paradise of God. And unto the angel of the church in Smyrna write; These things saith the first and the last, which was dead, and is alive...

The Age Old Story

He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the tree of life, which is in the midst of the paradise of God. And unto the angel of the church in Smyrna write; These things saith the first and the last, which was dead, and is alive...

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