

THE GUARDIAN

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Strength For Peace

"The growing strength of the free world, coupled with its desire to reach just and honorable agreement, has reduced the possibility of international conflict." Such is the view of Sir Winston Churchill as a New Year commences. The British Prime Minister is not noted for being optimistic. He believes in facing facts, so that if the world were anywhere near the brink of war he would be the first to say so.

It is, however, the reason for continued peace that he wished to emphasize. Wars are begun because a tempting prize is held out to a potential aggressor or else because a potential victim fears that unless a stand is made all will be lost.

Both causes have their roots in disproportionate weakness. The strong are neither frightened into a preventive war nor are they in danger of sudden onslaught. Security is a word that has all the attractiveness today that freedom had to an earlier generation and that beauty or truth had in other times.

Modern man desperately wants to feel secure. The fact that his aim is probably illusory does not lessen its importance as an effective mainspring of public and private action. In the international sphere the world desperately needs a feeling of security and, short of a world government, that can only be attained by the nations of the world at least combining for mutual support against aggression from any and every source. Today we have such an effective combination. It is vital that it be maintained.

Unsung Heroes

Frequent reports of great storms at sea with their customary toll of ships and men are potent reminders of the perils which members of the merchant marine under many flags face almost daily. The sea is the historic highway of man's adventuring spirit; over it from the most ancient times men have sailed in search of material treasure and, more often, in search of those things which add glow and sparkle to the ordinary things of life. From its depths there have come harvests of wealth; into its huge chasm islands, nations, and civilizations have disappeared. When it is kind, men find rest and peace in its ageless heart; when it is angry, men and steel are helpless against its relentless fury. In all maritime nations, in peace as in war, "blood is the price of admiralty."

Of all the avocations none is more arduous than seafaring; dangers and risks lurk in every wave. And yet it has an everlasting attraction for courageous men who love "to go down to the sea in ships and occupy their business in great waters". They are the unsung heroes of each generation. Their contribution to the commercial aspect of civilization cannot be measured.

Optimistic Forecasts

Looking back over the old year, and forward to the one whose threshold we have now crossed, our provincial and community leaders appear to be unanimous in expressing confidence and optimism. These are the notes sounded in the New Year's greetings carried in our issue of Thursday, and they will repay careful reading and study by all our citizens.

This is notably the case in the brief review of provincial activities and prospects by Premier Matheson, who stresses the fact that in view of the greater demand for more foodstuffs, a depressed market in one or two products does not justify any misgivings as to the future. Improved methods of production and processing are cited as the key to success in this connection. Despite the difficulties through which the dairy industry has passed in recent years, marked progress has been made. The fisheries have been expanded by dragger operations and increased processing facilities which are adding materially to our wealth from the sea. Our tourist trade also is expanding, and, in the Premier's words, bids fair to become one of our high revenue producers.

Progress in our urban communities is indicated in the statements issued by Mayor Stewart of Charlottetown, Mayor Wedge of Summerside and Mayor Yeo of Montague; and there is no question but that their views are shared by the representatives of all our municipalities.

It is well to be reminded, as we are by His Honour Lieutenant Governor Prowse, of the efforts for peace put forth by the United Nations, of Her Majesty's globe-encircling tour of our sister Dominions and countries of the Commonwealth at the present time, of the ties which bind us as a British Family of Nations and the responsibilities which are ours of furthering similar harmonious accord and good will in the hearts of other world powers.

The New Year is a time for good resolutions, and perhaps the best one of all is to resolve to keep one's eyes on the goal ahead rather than on the obstacles in the path. The latter usually turn out to be less formidable than we anticipated. Certainly the time-honored practice of counting our blessings at this season, and planning hopefully for the days ahead, is the best stimulant to exertion.

The Golden Day

Radio is among the wonders which have been revealed by scientific research into the secrets of the universe. The Head of the Commonwealth speaks in Auckland, New Zealand, twelve thousand miles from her official residence, and her voice is heard round the world. The Pope sits before a little device set up in his study at the Vatican and hundreds of millions of Christians hear every word that comes from his lips. It is all very familiar, almost commonplace; people everywhere take it for granted. It remains, however, a miracle of the most spectacular character.

Whatever 20th century science has done in the way of potential disorder and destruction, it must be given credit for a lot of enlightenment. Never was there an era so glittering as this one in material achievement and the indications are that the next half-century will see the unfolding of even greater wonders. And yet it must be clear to any thinking person that the Golden Day of man's life on the earth will remain a dream until the mighty structure of material development has been undergirded by even mightier spiritual and moral props. Somehow man must learn to master himself before his mastery of the universe can bring him to his rightful destiny. This generation with its intense preoccupation with matter has not been able to bring this about; perhaps another and wiser generation will be able to do it. Meanwhile, it is good to note that many brilliant minds in the scientific world already are recognizing the urgency of the task.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Tomorrow, the 2nd Sunday after Christmas.

This is the centennial year of St. Dunstan's University. Students, past and present, will be making very special efforts to honour their Alma Mater.

The abolition of the materials division of the Department of Defence Production and closing of the regional offices of the small industries division denotes the official termination of the long years of scarcities. We now face the problems of an economy of abundance.

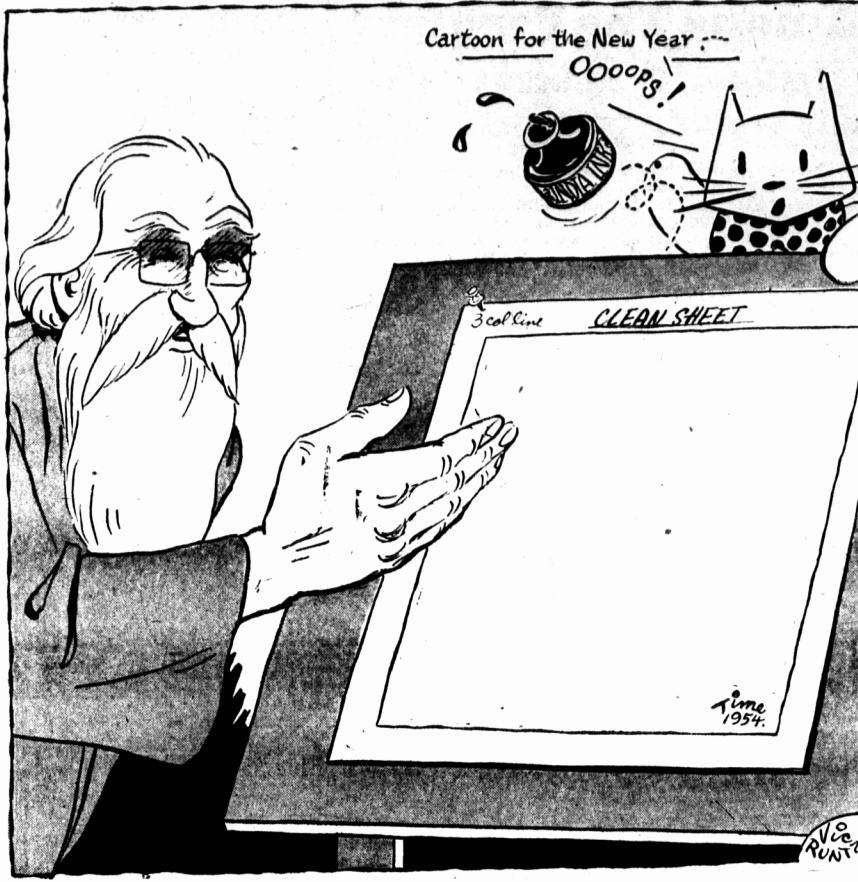
The world's first fully automatic meteorological system for observing the upper air has been installed near Crayley, England, it being in addition to eight earlier type stations already installed. Upper-air wind velocity, temperature pressure and humidity observations have immediate value for high-flying aircraft and may eventually aid in weather prediction.

That "the diversion from railways of high-priced traffic is seriously undermining their ability to carry bulk traffic at marginal rates" is the sober warning of C. N. R. President Donald Gordon. The plain implication is that in order to carry bulk freight at an economic rate it will be necessary for the railways to take steps to retain the higher paying traffic.

The Russian ambassador to the United States has protested against a version of the Russian reply to President Eisenhower's atomic proposals which read in part: "The international control of atomic weapons would suit the aggressive forces." The translation should have read: "International sanctioning of the production of atomic weapons would play into the hands of the aggressive forces."

Sir George James Frazer, Scottish author, was born a hundred years ago yesterday. Educated at Glasgow and Cambridge Universities, he pursued advanced studies at the latter, going from classical subjects to anthropology. He wrote a book on "Totemism" and followed it by his famous "Golden Bough" in 1890. The latter profoundly influenced the modern outlook on the belief in the supernatural. He had a distinguished educational and literary career and was knighted in 1914.

It's All Yours!



The Poets' Corner

BOYS! O BOYS!

O Boys, the times I've seen! The things I've done and known! If you knew where I have been, Or half the joys I've had, You never would leave me alone: But pester me to tell, Swearing to keep it dark. Every collector's clerk Would break out and go mad; And all the dogs would bark!

There was a young fellow of old Who spoke of a wonderful town, Built on a lake of gold. With many a barge and raft Afloat in the cooling sun, And lutes upon the lake Played by such courtisans... The sign was enough to take The reason out of a man's Brain; and to leave him daff, Babbling of lutes and fans.

The tale was right enough: Willows and orioles, With ladies skilled in love, But they listened only to smirk. For he spoke to incredulous fools. And, maybe, was sorry he spoke; For no one believes in joys, And Peace on Earth is a joke. Which, anyhow, telling destroys; So better go on with your work: But Boys! O Boys! O Boys!

—Oliver St. John Gogarty.

Old Charlottetown

(And P. E. I.)

NEWSPAPER ITEMS

From The Examiner, Aug. 21, 1888:

We are informed that Mr. George Jenkins, of Pownal, has built a new trotting park on his premises which he intends opening to the public in a few weeks. The track is said to be well built, and the situation excellent.

The four electric lamps on Queen Square were lighted last evening. The effect was very good indeed.

The American man-of-war Osage was anchored off Souris yesterday. She is sent to look after the fisheries. Her captain and four of the officers called on Consul agent Carleton. There are two other frigates on their way down to the Island, the Yantic and the Boston. The latter is a new steel vessel, and is said to be one of the finest American man-of-war afloat. With these three on the coast it is hoped all American seiners will be kept right.

Tonight Prof. Zera Semon commences his engagement at the Lyceum. Prof. Semon has connected himself with a company of artists, and their entertainment cannot be spoken of too highly. Sig. Giovanni's flock of performing canary birds are something wonderful, while Miss Adele Gilbert on the musical glasses gives some very choice selections. Zera has a number of new tricks, and his ventriloquism is as amusing as ever, while the Mariquettes still continue to create roars of laughter. Prof. Semon will continue through the week with a matinee Saturday. The prices are 25 and 35 cents.

The Age Old Story

Blessed is the man that trusteth in the Lord, and whose hope the Lord is... O Lord, the hope of Israel, all that forsake thee shall be ashamed, and they that depart from me shall be written in the earth, because they have forsaken the Lord, the fountain of living waters... Behold, they say unto me, Where is the word of the Lord? let it come now.

Events Of 1953 Affecting Soviets & The Free World

By W. N. Ewer United Kingdom Information Office

The year 1953 has been— for at least a part of it—a year of expectation. 1952 had been a year of strange stagnation. At its close the international scene had been almost unchanged since its beginning. In Europe nothing appeared to have altered. In the Far East the Korean armistice negotiation was deadlocked. The tension between the Communist powers and the West had neither increased or lessened. And so it remained during the first weeks of 1953. Then the death of Stalin aroused expectation and even hope that some great change might be impending in Soviet policy.

There were indeed signs that seemed to indicate that the expectations might be well-founded. There were— or appeared to be— signs of coming modification in the internal structure and in the domestic policies of the Soviet Government under its new leadership. And if the rigour of the dictatorship were relaxed, if the regime were to become even slightly "liberalized," that could hardly affect the attitude of the Government towards the outside world.

It was noticed that the cult of the all-wise and all-powerful "leader" was swiftly suppressed and replaced by the doctrine of "collective leadership." There was a far-reaching amnesty. Promises were made that "impermissible" methods would no longer be used by the police to secure confessions from prisoners. There was to be an immediate reform of the penal code. The "constitutional rights" of Soviet citizens were to be "sacredly observed." "Soviet legality" was to be the basis of all Government action.

At the same time, there were, or seemed to be changes tending to give the smaller republics of the Union a greater measure of self-government and to relax the rigidity of the centralized control exercised from Moscow. And in the economic sphere there were new and considerable concessions to the peasantry. Many students and observers of Soviet affairs, it is true, suspected that all this was probably motivated not by any "change of heart," but rather a response to certain unrest among the masses; that it was designed to allay unrest, to win popularity for the new rulers, and to check an economic deterioration among the workers and the peasants. But whatever the motives, the trend to "liberalization" was visible enough. Borrowing an apt term from the world of dress design, people began to talk hopefully of the "new look" in Russia. This "new look" spread to the satellite countries of Eastern

Europe. Concessions and the relaxation of severity became the order of the day. The Communist Government of Eastern Germany announced that policy had taken a "new course." It was a hopeful spring. And then at midsummer the new look began to fade rapidly. The June revolt in Eastern Germany and the stark repression that followed was one turning point. The disgrace and arrest of Beria in early July marked another.

As always, in totalitarian states it is not easy to divine the causes of any change of policy. It may be that in the inner Soviet councils Beria had been the champion and protagonist of "liberalization," and that it disappeared with him. It may be that the Communist leaders have taken alarm at the consequences of their own policy; that they were finding as other dictators have, that one concession brings a demand for more, that they had aroused expectations they might prove dangerous to satisfy. It may be that they were feeling more confident of their own ability to control affairs than they had been in the weeks immediately following the loss of Stalin and his personal prestige among the masses. It may well be that it was all three. They are in no way incompatible.

But the fact was evident enough. There was a sharp reversal of policy. No more had been heard of the reform of the penal code. The old "impermissible" methods were resumed. Beria and his associates have made the familiar "confessions" after five months of "examination." There was no more talk of "Soviet legality," or of the constitutional guarantees of freedom for Soviet citizens. There was a new drive against nationalism in the non-Russian republics of the Union. In Georgia, the Administration and the Party were purged and re-purged. The Ukrainians have been warned that they are to regard themselves not as a separate nationality but as a branch of the great Russian nation.

True, many of the economic concessions to the peasantry both in the Soviet Union and in the satellite states, remain. But these are not the outcome of any liberalizing tendency. They are part of an effort to cope with the serious difficulties in food production which is assuming dangerous proportions.

And so the expectations which were aroused in the spring have faded by the end of the year. So far as internal policy is concerned, the "new look" has faded. The "new look" has faded. The Russia of Malenkov is fundamental-

REMEMBER

DURING THE HOLIDAY SEASON AND AT ALL TIMES— IF YOU DRINK, DON'T DRIVE. IF YOU DRIVE, DON'T DRINK.

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Notes By The Way

"The bigger the man the bigger the splash when he misses the boat."—Brandon Sun.

"Has France reached the stage when even her best friends can't tell her?"—Vancouver Province.

Soviet Russia, we are told, is producing two-headed cabbages. A fitting accomplishment for a regime that is sometimes accused of being two-faced.—Christian Science Monitor.

The season's worst pun was perpetrated by a Los Angeles restaurateur, which advertised a "Nuclear Scientists' Special." It turned out to be "Fission Chips"—Edmonton Journal.

It is customary to place a lot of emphasis on things that are large and massive, but don't go overboard on size. If it were always the deciding factor, the cow would outrun the rabbit.—Kitchener Record.

"It is believed," says a medical article, "that the function of the sinuses is to lighten the skull and give resonance to the voice." They also serve the subsidiary purpose of giving people who have never had an operation something to talk about.—Stratford Beacon-Herald.

In Patcham, England, says a press dispatch, Eric Poore died worth £30,000—"hating tax collectors to the end." His will said: "From my grave I curse the Board of Inland Revenue who have ruined my life. All inspectors of taxes are sadistic and depraved. That is common knowledge. None of it is funny. It was just too much for Poore to face the fact that he couldn't take it with him. And he made life miserable for himself. Tax collectors merely happened to be the tools of his self-torture. There is an old prayer which runs: 'God grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change; courage to change those I can, and the wisdom to know the difference.' Poore, poor man, apparently never saw it."—Oven Sound Sun-Times.

Canada is growing up. We're also growing older. That applies to population age. Our life expectancy is greater today than it was 30 years ago. Census figures prove it. Here are the figures from the 1921 and 1951 census showing the percentage of people in the older age groups now and then:

casting company in conjunction with the Foundation for Research into the Finnish vocabulary. A man serving a prison sentence at Turku came second with 673. The same prisoner won a competition with synonyms for 'stealing'—he sent in 170. Another man knew 203 synonyms for lying.—The Times, London.

The automobile ostensibly is a willing servant of mankind and yet there is an ineffable quality about it that often changes the entire personality of a person when he sits behind the steering wheel. From the forehead of the most mild-mannered persons unshorn hairs sprout upward and their faces take on satanic leers. Men, and sometimes women, who normally speak in subdued tones, develop the ability to snarl and bellow belligerently at other drivers. When the door of the automobile slams shut, courtesy and thoughtfulness often are left at the curb and Dr. Jekyll, citizen, becomes Mr. Hyde, licensed operator.—New York Times.

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Table with 3 columns: Age Group, 1921, 1951. Rows include 65-69, 70-74, 75-79, 80-84, 85-89, 90 and up, and 5.96%, 8.70%.

In the city of Toronto surprising figures have developed. In 1921 only four per cent of the people were in the age bracket 65-and-over. In 1951 the figure was over 16 per cent. People are living longer despite the depression of the thirties and the most destructive war in history from 1939 to 1945.—Lethbridge Herald.

"It is conceivable that farming may become fairly important in sub-Arctic areas if certain difficulties can be overcome. Crops of potatoes, cabbage, alfalfa, bromo and timothy have been grown in the Mackenzie River valley for years nearly 1,000 miles north of Edmonton. The step from potatoes to wheat may be a long one, but, in all probability, not impossible," says the Edmonton Journal. A helping hand from an unexpected source may also play a large part in bridging the gap. It's the theory that the north is growing warmer. As evidence of this, it has been reported that vegetation is encroaching upon the frozen tundra of the Arctic and migratory birds are moving farther north.—Kitchener-Waterloo Record.

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