

"Lovers From Edward Island Like the Dew"
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"The strongest memory is weaker than
the weakest ink."

PAGE 4 TUESDAY, MARCH 19, 1957

Not Much Hope

Of disarmament discussions there seems to be no end—and of their accomplishing anything worth while, no prospects. The meeting of the U.N. sub-committee now under way in London may, of course, produce a ray of hope; but, apparently, the participating governments are not counting on it. The difficulty is the same as it has been all along. Both sides—the Soviet Union and the Western Powers—want disarmament. But, while the Western Powers are insisting on some measure of international control of any plan that might be devised, the Soviet Union takes the view that control would be neither necessary nor practicable. Besides, the Soviets want the banning of nuclear weapons to take priority in any disarmament plan. The Western Powers are wary of this attitude, as well they might be; for if the free world has any superiority at all over the Soviet Union, it is in the nuclear field. In all other military branches—armies, number of planes, guns, submarines and the like—the Russians, according to all reports, are far ahead.

While these differences in points of view exist, it is scarcely reasonable to expect any agreement on the main problem. The delegates now in London will talk and argue for a week or more, draw up charts and graphs, perhaps report "progress" and ask leave to sit again. And that is as much as they will do; unless—and this is the only hope, a very small one—fear can do what reason, economic need, military facts and moral suasion have failed to do. There has been some speculation that the threat of intercontinental missiles may force the Russians to a more reasonable frame of mind. But this is a slim possibility. Men for whom the moral aspects of disarmament have no meaning or compulsion are not likely to be swayed in their thinking by one additional terror.

A Difficult Question

For some time a dispute has been going on between the Student Council of City College, New York, and the Provost of the College as to whether Communist speakers should be allowed to speak before the student body. Some time ago the students invited John Gates, editor of the Communist Daily Worker, to speak to them as part of an Academic Freedom Week program. The Provost immediately cancelled the invitation and later his decision was upheld by the heads of all the other municipally-supported colleges. The reason given by the administrators was "our unequivocal condemnation of Communism." The students, on the other hand, called it "an affront to civil liberties" and appealed to the Board of Education to reverse the decision.

This sort of thing crops up every now and again in the United States; and there have been a few instances of it in Canada. It isn't an easy problem to solve, since a plain "yes" or "no" answer is clearly inadequate. Those who say "no" do so because they feel a responsibility for protecting the students under their care from the pressure of Communist propaganda which does no good to any group of students and which is calculated to create doubt concerning the value and strength of democratic institutions. This, of course, is the one mission of the propagandists, however much they may try to hide it under the cloak of academic freedom.

On the other hand, the essence of democracy is its respect for free inquiry and free exchange of ideas; and its chief strength lies in its abhorrence of all totalitarian doctrines, whether political or intellectual. But perhaps the chief argument of those who say that it is foolish to keep Communist speakers from college classrooms is that it provides them with a subverting tool which other-

wise they would not have. Whenever a Communist is barred from any particular platform, the cry goes up in Moscow and Peiping and is broadcast all over the world: "See how the so-called 'free world' suppresses freedom." The people of the free world know that this is not so, although it must be admitted that freedom is enclosed within bounds here and there—the Southern United States, for example. But the point is that hundreds of millions of people who are not quite sure whether they prefer democracy to communism are being subjected to this propaganda every day of the year. Whether free institutions should help it along by refusing Communists entry to student forms and the like or whether whatever risk is involved should be taken for the sake of intellectual freedom—that is the question. One thing can be said with confidence; the free way of life has nothing to fear from the propaganda of the Communists, provided its full intellectual resources are called into service.

Evasive Answer

Mr. Diefenbaker asked a simple question: "Is Egypt withholding permission for the landing of Canadian reinforcements for the hard-pressed U.N. Emergency Force in Gaza? Is that a fact or is it not? Why should we have to wait for an elongated and explanatory statement?" The reply from the Prime Minister was: "These questions cannot be answered by yes or no. There have been conflicting reports about this matter."

Why cannot they be answered by yes or no? Surely, the Canadian Government doesn't have to base its information on matters of this kind on "conflicting reports." There wouldn't be any conflicting reports in the first place if the Government would go to the trouble of ascertaining the truth of the matter. Either President Nasser of Egypt will allow the Canadians to land on what he considers to be Egyptian territory, or he will not. Everybody knows that the Queen's Own Rifles were kept out of the Middle East by Nasser's orders. In fact, that was common knowledge for some considerable time before the Government admitted it. A similar situation probably exists now. But it is incredible that, in the light of past experience, the Government doesn't know enough about it to say yes or no. Why must the Government resort to evasiveness when a simple statement of fact would suit everybody concerned so much better?

EDITORIAL NOTES

An educator says that the schools are expected to do too much "to educate everyone and at the same time encourage genius." The latter requirement shouldn't cause too much trouble. Genius, in the few schools where it exists, will get along very well even under the most unfavourable conditions.

The conversion of salt water into fresh at low cost has long been a dream of scientists. According to an official of the U.S. Department of the Interior it is nearing reality. At present, he says, it can be done for 60 cents a thousand gallons by application of atomic power and he thinks it will soon be possible to reduce the cost to a much lower rate.

Though not a native of this Province the late Mr. J. K. Curran, of the well-known contracting firm of Curran and Briggs, gave unstintingly of his time, means and outstanding ability in promoting Prince Edward Island interests. His loss will be keenly felt, particularly in Summerside where he made his home. He took a particular interest in encouraging athletic activities for the young people of Prince County, but the whole community benefited from his zeal and enterprise.

There will be general approval of the Government's decision, as announced in the Legislature yesterday by Premier Matheson, to join Ottawa in raising the old age assistance payments to needy citizens between the ages of 65 and 69. These payments are shared equally by the Federal and Provincial governments, the maximum increase by the Federal share, as announced by Finance Minister Harris, being to \$23 from \$20 a month. The total will bring the increase up to six dollars monthly, in line with old age security payments which are a federal responsibility.



"THEY'LL DO IT EVERY TIME!"

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.

DANGEROUS ROAD

Sir.—I feel it is my duty as one who lives near the most dangerous spot on the Trans-Canada Highway between Borden and Charlottetown, to make a few observations and suggestions in connection with the last serious accident, that sent four to hospital and damaged both cars beyond repair. This section of road has had one way traffic all winter with no warning signs. More especially as this section is on a curve, oncoming traffic cannot be noticed from either end.

To safeguard the travelling public in the future, I make the following suggestion for the section of road where the Trans-Canada leaves the main road to St. John's Church, that this section be closed during the winter months as there have been numerous accidents there every winter, since it was built. The Government should erect large signs at both ends of this section reading "Cars enter this section at owners' risk: Speed limit 10 miles per hour".

No doubt the Hon. Mr. MacKay knows the danger of this section as he drives over it twice daily.

I am, Sir, etc., FRANK MYERS Crapaud.

SHAME! DR. GRANT

Sir.—It was with utter disgust that I read a recent letter by Senator T.V. Grant stating that the fact that P.E.I. teachers received an average income the meagre sum of \$1,445.83 was a proof that the Liberal Government was going ahead rapidly in the matter of education.

How can he boast about the P.E.I. teachers being the lowest paid people in Canada unless he considers them inferior to servers of food, street cleaners, and garbage collectors? Senator Grant's tax-free allowance exceeds the salary of a P.E.I. teacher; in fact, his salary is equal to that of several teachers. Let him be frank and ask himself if his service to P.E.I. in his capacity as Senator, is equal to a small fraction of the worth of one qualified teacher.

Since salary represents a remuneration for service rendered, I feel that the Liberal Government has its sense of values in reverse, when it pays a Senator, who does practically nothing, five times the salary of a teacher who educates future citizens of Canada.

Dr. Grant states that when Prince of Wales College was exclusively devoted to training teachers, there was a surplus in the profession, and that when the Tories introduced other courses the curriculum a shortage of teachers was the result. Is not this ridiculous? Dr. Grant can blame the Tories for many things but no intelligent being could conclude that they created a shortage of teachers. The answer is simple. Students having a chance to choose from several courses, avoided the teaching profession because of the bleak future which it offered. The result of this is that P.E.I. has more than 100 unqualified teachers. Rather than raise salaries to attract qualified teachers, the Liberal Government decided to grant permits and later licenses to people who could not pass Grade VIII. The latter, I presume, is what Dr. Grant calls going ahead rapidly in Education.

OTTAWA REPORT

New Pacific Highway

By Patrick Nicholson

Ottawa: Hon. James Sinclair, Minister of Fisheries, and popularly "Jimmy" to everyone around Parliament Hill, called a conference in his office for a selected few representatives of the Vancouver press one recent afternoon. An invited guest was Ted Applewhite, no newsman, but M. P. for the huge Skeena district of northern British Columbia.

The federal government has agreed with the Social Credit government of British Columbia to share the cost of a new highway, from the Pacific coast port of Stewart, northwards for 250 miles to the town of Cassiar, site of perhaps the world's largest asbestos deposit. "That was the gift of Mr. Sinclair's announcement."

The road will cost \$12,000,000. It will be 24 feet wide, have a six inch crust of gravel, and be constructed under provincial government supervision. That is routine and not very sensational. What is sensational is the far-sightedness behind this conception. NATIONAL PROGRAM BORN?

To begin with, it is the first time the federal government has joined with any provincial government in developing such a road. It is just one step in the kind of national program to develop our natural resources such as Conservative leader John Diefenbaker so plausibly, so justifiably yet so unheeded advocated in parliament last month.

This new highway, said Mr. Sinclair, who as an engineer helped to survey much of that land years ago, will serve to open up a great new tract of hitherto virgin resource territory. As a first step, it will slash the cost of shipping asbestos out of Cassiar; secondly, it will simplify the shipment of copper from nearby Grand Forks; thirdly, it will enable the big softwood forest resources to be tapped; fourth, by making new fishing grounds available to the Indians, it will reduce the pressure on more southerly rivers.

The alternative to this road as a method of access was for goods to continue to be shipped to the narrow strip of coastal land belonging to the United States, which protrudes from Alaska 400 miles southwards down the Pacific shoreline of northern British Columbia. Various attempts have been made to negotiate a Canadian access corridor across the panhandle, and the commencement of this new highway obviously marks the final abandonment of this reasonable ambition.

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Five minutes after Mr. Sinclair finished his press conference, that same Ted Applewhite rose in the House of Commons, and oh so helpfully asked the Minister of National Resources whether any consideration happened to have been given to building a road from Stewart to Cassiar. Why yes, replied Hon. Jean Lesage, by a curious coincidence an agreement to build such a road had just been completed that very day. And he was happy to tell the oh so surprised and delighted Ted that the road will be commenced this year.

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Medically Speaking

HEPATITIS PATIENTS NOW ALLOWED MORE ACTIVITY

By Herman N. Bandesen, M.D.
FOR years, many doctors have recommended complete bed rest for victims of virus hepatitis until all symptoms have disappeared. But now, there are some different thoughts along this line. Many doctors feel that it is advisable to remain in bed only as long as acute symptoms persist. Once the patient feels well, he need remain in bed no longer than one hour after each meal, even if jaundice is still present.

PHYSICAL ACTIVITY
Furthermore, as much physical activity as he likes is permitted. This change in attitude follows a recent U.S. Army study which showed that patients acutely ill with virus hepatitis improve as rapidly when allowed as much physical activity as they desire as do patients kept at strict bed rest. I would like to emphasize, however, that the place for anyone with acute infectious hepatitis is in the hospital. He should be hospitalized as soon as the diagnosis is made and remain there until the doctor says he can leave.

PROPER DIET
Diet is another matter. Generally this should include about 3,000 calories a day with approximately 150 gm. of protein a similar amount of fat. If the patient has little or no appetite, frequent small feedings probably are better than three regular big meals. Tests have shown that patients with such diets got well much quicker than those who were permitted to eat just about anything they wanted.

QUESTION AND ANSWER
S. H.: I have had chills and sweating most of the winter. What can I do to prevent such an attack next winter?
Answer: Chills and sweating come from a variety of causes. They may be due to a thyroid deficiency or to infections of various types. Change of life is another cause.

The Poet's Corner

LANDSCAPE BY VAN GOGH

The hedgerow bearing tattered leaves of oak
Is brown as nutmeg, and the crumpled house
Is warm as a winter vole hugging the ground.
Against the snow the frozen steam
With Michaelmas blue the cold snow-white skies.

There's comfort in the amber line of smoke.
In the wind's scuffling, stealthy
While, over the shivering foreground of the fields,
As embered sun burns through a milky haze,
Licks up the furrowed snow, and makes it blaze.

—Sylvia Read, in the Christian Science Monitor.

The Age Old Story

The eyes of the lord are upon the righteous and His ears are open unto their cry.

OUR YESTERDAYS

From the Guardian Files
TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO
(March 19, 1932)

Grave need of practicing every economy consistent with efficiency in the various essential departments was emphasized by Hon. J. D. Stewart, Premier, in his budget speech last night. He stated that revenues were estimated at \$1,209,870.88, and total expenditures were estimated at \$1,207,465.

Prince Edward Island showed increased fish landings during the month of February, but the landed value, \$5,366, was slightly below that of February of last year. The same condition was noted throughout the Maritimes where the volume increased but the value declined.

TEN YEARS AGO
(March 19, 1947)

End of the allocation of canned fish on March 31, and cessation of fish purchases by UNRRA will mean that the P.E.I. fish-canning industry will have to find new markets after that date Senator J.P. McIntyre of Mount Stewart said last night. However, Mr. McIntyre felt that markets would be available for Island canned fish this year.

Nine potato boats are expected to load at Island points for the United Kingdom during the next several weeks. Three of the boats will load at Charlottetown, three at Summerside and three at Southport and Georgetown. These boats will be chartered by the British Ministry of Food, which is also importing the potatoes presently being loaded in St. John, N.B.

MAXIMS

The desire for the well-being of one's own nation can be—and must be—made compatible with the welfare of all humanity.

POWER STATION FLOODED
LIVINGSTONE, Northern Rhodesia (Reuters)—The Zambezi River, rising to record levels as it roared over 254-foot Victoria Falls, Monday knocked out the waterfall's power station. More than 1,500 African and European industrial workers were thrown out of work as the water level at the brink of the falls rose to a record 2.5 feet above any previous flood level.

NOTES BY THE WAY

A Virginia woman is one of the contenders in the annual dog team race at The Pas. Surely the climate hasn't changed that much in Ole Virginny.—Edmonton Journal

A sleep-walking woman in California turned sleep-driver and drove 23 miles before waking up. It was found to be in this age when many people's feet are more at home on the gas pedal than on the ground.—Lethbridge Herald

The Winter herring fisheries off Norway's west coast were a failure this year, especially when compared with the record catch in 1956. At the end of the season fishermen had landed only about 560,000 tons of mature herring. The catch was 400,000 tons less than last year.—News of Norway

Our Aunt Min used to be a great hand at fluffing up a pillow from under the patient's head, shake the gizzard out of it, pat it into shape, replace it on the bed, and ask: "Doesn't that feel better?" It usually did—but fluffing up a pillow is a passing art, since few pillows are now packed with feathers.—Toronto Journal

A National Health and Welfare publication says that "fortunately, all-out atomic warfare would likely last a matter of days rather than weeks or months." But a few days might be quite enough to eliminate civilization.—Ottawa Journal

It is surely a reasonable suggestion that the federal government could apply millions of its surplus in a most effective way for the public benefit—the lending of money to the municipalities for such essential projects as schools, sewers, sewage disposal plants and water-works extensions, at a comparatively modest three per cent.—Hamilton Spectator

Anything that can be done to make the nursing profession more attractive will be a boon to humanity at large. The girls in training have been relieved of some of the heavier, more unpleasant duties but the relief, for the most part, has been very slight. A better "financial deal" should be arranged from training days on. Unfortunately a few hospitals are in a financial position to do much about it.—Owen Sound Sun-Times

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