

THE GUARDIAN

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"The Strongest Memory is Weaker Than the Weakest Ink"

CHARLOTTETOWN, WEDNESDAY, NOV. 14, 1951

Electoral Reform

Our Federation of Agriculture directors have set a good example in their resolution calling for revision of the Provincial Election Act. The resolution does not commit the Federation to specific electoral reforms, but it does outline a number of proposals for consideration at school, district and County meetings of the organization. The proposals include representation based on a combination of population and territorial convenience, single representation from electoral districts, elimination of property vote, lowering of voting age to eighteen years, incorporation of provisions in the Act designed to effectively control corrupt election practices, and compulsory voting.

World Malnutrition

The task of the sixth world conference of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations is far from an easy one. The conference, now meeting in Rome, hopes to make plans for a world-wide campaign against starvation and malnutrition. In part the answer must be the technical advance of great numbers of subsistence farmers. Bringing along many Asiatic areas from a sharpened stick method of cultivation to use of the hoe or plow would go far to bring about the necessary increase in production.

Check On Defense Spendings

Mr. St. Laurent's announcement that a committee on defence expenditures will be set up removes a long-standing Opposition complaint in Parliament. As the Ottawa Journal notes, at successive sessions the Government has insisted that ample opportunity for the examination of defence estimates is presented in the Commons and Senate when the items of expenditure are being passed. With persistence the Opposition has contended there should be a committee before which witnesses could be called for direct questioning.

ed its value in the recommendations and reports it made on the basis of the evidence of officers and civilian experts and on its own observations during visits to armament plants and Defence establishments. "It can be taken for granted," says the Journal, "that no secrets will be revealed to the committee, in open session at least, and indeed it is not its duty to find what Canada has achieved in 'backroom' research and in the application of new and mysterious weapons. What it will represent is the nation's wish to be reassured that its money is being spent efficiently without waste".

EDITORIAL NOTES

Potato export is now the new order of the day. Prince Charles of Edinburgh born this date 1948. There has been no lack of activities this year but one omission seems to have been the potato carnival. It is to be hoped that another year will see that gay event revived. The election in Argentina has had its expected result. The cost, however, has been considerable. The press had to be muzzled and the dictator's wife sink almost to death's door.

Winter is making its appearance in Korea and in Europe even as at home. Many thoughtful ladies and organizations have already taken steps to add to the comfort of our lads overseas. Georg Wilhelm Friedrich Hegel, greatest German philosopher of the post-Kantian period, died this date 1831. Reason, he held, is the essential nature of reality, doing away with much of the earlier irrational dualism in philosophic thought.

As noted in a nature feature in this paper, lighthouses have long meant disaster for birds. A more modern but unfortunately more common hazard of the same sort is the increasingly popular lighted picture window.

Everybody in the city is interested in the forthcoming election for Mayor, whether or not there be a contest. As already stated it might be the part of wisdom to allow an acclamation with a contest in February, but that, of course, is up to the electorate. The law says an election there must be.

Unhappy Greece still mourns most of her 12,172 children who were spirited away from their homes by Communists. Only 289 have so far been returned and Yugoslavia has been the only Communist country to co-operate in their return, according to Red Cross sources.

A red fox caused a slight sensation by running down the main street of East Ham, London. It was mistaken at first for a dog but somebody recognized by its bushy tail it was reynard, and followed it into a butcher's shop. There it resented all efforts at capture, and finally had to be shot by the police.

The passing of Mr. James Henry Gundy, Toronto millionaire, emphasizes the ease with which it was possible to make good in halcyon days of the eighties and nineties of last century. Canada was in the first development at that time, and any youth with ambition, determination and ability had little difficulty in making his way in the world. Mr. Gundy, like that other millionaire, Mr. J. W. McConnell, was the son of a Methodist minister, in whom was instilled the principle and practice of economy, together with the quality of stick-tiveness which leads on to fortune. We in Canada are now at the beginning of another period of expansion and development, when the same qualities possessed by youth will bring equivalent rewards and distinctions in the not too distant future.

Opposition M.P.'s always like to keep a political eye on the legal fees which the Government pays to the lawyers of its choosing. Last year, writes an Ottawa correspondent, Progressive Conservatives were looking over a batch of old answers when they noted to their delight, that scores of thousands of dollars had been paid to Walter Thomson, then sitting as Liberal M.P. for the constituency of Ontario in Veteran's Land Act Legal fees. Until he became an M.P., the information hadn't meant much. The Opposition promptly clamored for the total of Mr. Thomson's fees. The earlier data showed it as well over a hundred thousand dollars. By the time Mr. Thomson became provincial Liberal leader in Ontario, the official total had climbed to \$232,000. This week, with the Ontario election well underway, Mr. Thomson dealt with the question. He gave his own total—\$345,427.95 "for fees and out-of-pocket expenses". Opposition M.P.'s blinked.

What, Again?



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.

INQUIRIES FROM ENGLAND

Sir.—The children in class I of our school would like to make a huge map showing the places visited on the Royal tour of your country.

We should be very grateful if you would help us by sending a copy of your paper published on the day which their Royal Highnesses visited your town.

On our map we shall place photographs taken from these various papers, and then make a book with newspaper headings at the top of every page and underneath photographs and articles from the papers.

If we are successful with this project, we shall ask the local paper here to photograph our map, and we shall send you a copy, and send other copies to some of the Canadian schools.

We hope that you will help us to carry out our task, and we send our best thanks to you for any help you may give.

I am Sir, etc. FLORENCE WEEKES. (Age 11 years).

C. E. Controlled Primary School, Wrotham, Kent, England, October 19, 1951.

Sir.—From our newspaper and the radio I have been following the Royal Tour of Canada with considerable interest.

Away back in 1941-1943 I was with the Royal Air Force at Charlottetown and now am reading that your city is to be visited by the Royal Couple. I feel that I must get to know more intimately of the wonderful reception that must be awaiting their Royal Highnesses.

Will you oblige me with a copy of the issue of your newspaper containing the report of your welcome to the start of the Canadian Provinces. I would appreciate and treasure such a book with the "Garden of the Gulf," and relive again the happy stay I enjoyed so long ago in your city.

I made many good friends in Charlottetown and sent my good wishes to Mr. and Mrs. Jack Connolly of Elm Street who was in the Post Office in 1941. Also the Scout, particularly Harry Pineau, Scout Commissioner, to Mr. and Mrs. Bruce of Water Street and Mr. and Mrs. Tomlins of King Street, and many other folk who made those of us in the R. A. F. learn to love and appreciate Canada.

I am Sir, etc. JAMES A. SMITH. 305 Longstove Road, Iyer Heath, Birmingham, England.

DRINK AND DANCING

Sir.—One evening before Halloween, at Sambro, 18 miles beyond Halifax, I attended a dance and enjoyed it. It was a masquerade, a pretty and orderly evening of amusement. They netted \$135.00 which they handed over to help pay an old neighbour's hospital bill.

What interested me about that dance was the fact that no signs of liquor were in evidence. Liquor is the dance's greatest enemy. It ceases the dance, tends to drive away decent people in disgust, and leave the floor to the lowest class. I do not say that purveyors of drink should be shot, but I do say that many a man has been shot for a lesser crime. I cannot think of anything worse a man can do against the dance than give it a black eye with a foul-smelling bottle.

It is a notable fact that some people think they cannot enjoy a dance until they have a few drinks. Of course the motive and the reason are obvious. When I was about 14 years old, I attended a dance. It was the evening of a "stumping frolic".

Old Charlottetown

(And P. E. I.) VALUABLE BUILDING LOTS

"Mr. B. Davies is instructed by the Misses Stewart to offer at public sale on Thursday, 21st June next, at 12 o'clock noon on the premises, seven valuable building lots, not to be equalled as business sites in Charlottetown, being part of their real estate, facing on Queen Square immediately opposite the Market House. Terms, 20 per cent deposit to be paid immediately after sale and the remainder secured by mortgage, payable in five years in annual instalments with interest, when an indisputable title will be given."

The farmer was too shiftless to pull out his own stumps. He felt he had to compensate the stumpers with liquor, and he provided plenty, 2nd or 3rd grade. During the day, while the stumps were flying, the glass was passed around frequently, so that by night some of the men were pretty well "corned". We had a royal time. The fiddler, like "Auld Nick" in Tam O'Shanter: "Screw'd the pipes and gart them skirl. Till roof and rafters a' did dirle."

But about going home time, a row started up between an old man and a boy of 16. The old man, under provocation, swore a great oath and used his fist. The boy's brother, a big raw-boned fellow, jumped to the rescue and grabbed the old man by the throat. Then the host, feeling his responsibility for good order in his house, rushed into the fray. A noted fighter at tea parties, tall, lithe and with flashing black eyes stepped up and said: "Bud, if there is any scratching to be done, you stand aside, and let me do it. But the hostess was the one who saved the situation from black eyes and flowing blood. With startling voice and stern command she cried "No fighting in my house". She showed the contestants apart and ordered them away home. My back was against the kitchen table in the corner, and I had planned if the worst came to the worst, I would retire under the table. It wasn't necessary.

What a mess and tragedy drink makes of the dance! Quite often some deadly weapon is used by reckless men to settle their differences. The authorities over the dance-hall should take stern steps and hound booze-vendors away from the place and insist on keeping them away.

I am, Sir, etc. W. I. GREEN. Stanley Bridge.

CAISTER, England.—(CP)—Excavations in this Norfolk town uncovered an ancient dwelling which experts estimate dates from about 200 A. D.

The Poet's Corner

EARLY CHILDHOOD

When I was six and had so little brain, There was a duckpond down by Lapwing Lane, And there I pleased to stand upon the marge, Towing by string a little wooden barge.

To me this object was a caravan, Not made less golden by the local smell; The slag-heaps by whose feet I used to rove Were fascinating heaps of treasure-trove, And cinder-tracks with dirty pig-iron stiles Were highway leading to the West-ern Isles.

—R. P. Lister, in Christian Science Monitor.

News And Newsboys

(Christian Science Monitor) Many a reader has been thrilled to read "How They Brought the Good News from Ghent to Aix". We were happy to hear how Maurice Gagnon, aged 15, delivered the good news on Forest Street in Methuen, Massachusetts.

Is today's youth lazy, irresponsible? Does the newsboy leave your paper lying in the rain or forget to leave it at all in his haste to get to the movies? Not this one. Not even a bullet could stop Maurice from delivering his final 18 papers.

The bullet, fired by an older youth playing with a rifle, ricocheted from a stone and struck Maurice in the cheek. An agitated resident of a nearby house tried to take the wounded newsboy to a hospital, but he refused to go until he had completed his paper route. So like all those heroic messengers of history and legend who have staggered through ambush and holocaust to deliver their news, Maurice accomplished his mission.

In delivering the news, he was making news. Not to be overlooked in a day when juvenile delinquency and the breakdown of individual responsibility make grim headlines is even a small reminder that the ancient virtues still live. That is the good news one lad's devotion to duty leaves at your doorstep today.

For Men's Clothing That Fits J.P. MacPherson & Son 157 Queen St.

COMPLETE INSURANCE SERVICE WK Rogers Agencies Limited 181 QUEEN ST. AGENTS THROUGHOUT THE PROVINCE

Lessons From Europe In Community Progress

By Leo P. McIsaac Part Two (continued) (All Rights Reserved)

WOMEN'S ORGANIZATIONS

Women's Institutes, of course, are recognized in nearly all countries as the leading women's organizations. Their program, however, varies as much as local conditions. In general they seem to have taken special interest in schools and in health. In some countries, though, like England, where many of the Institute members are from urban and industrial sections, they have little appreciation for the farmer's point of view, or of the problems of the people in the country.

Some Institute members we met in England, for instance, had the idea that Canadian and Danish farmers are exploiting the British consumer at every possible opportunity. However, the Institutes are doing an excellent job of improving community conditions on a general level. Europe seem to pay more attention to public, social and economic questions than do women in Canada. Young married women attend courses on social welfare, family budgeting, etc.

Institutes have drawn up schemes to finance, either through the cooperative or through the government, the installation of running water and sewage systems in their homes. This work is handled on a contract basis and has been done much more cheaply than it could have been if each one had to deal with the plumber and supplier individually. Women helped to extend rural electrification in the same way. One of the leading Institute members in Scotland told us that promoting projects like this and helping the people in a practical way, soon aroused support for the Institutes. The women then became interested in doing something practical to make their own work easier; she said, when women have electricity and running water it is easier to promote better cooking methods, better sanitation, etc. for they are more interested in their homes. "When people acquired a little, they looked forward to getting more, and make better use of every new convenience," she told us.

There are other women's groups doing excellent work too. The Co-operative Women's Guilds in Britain and Sweden have made a great contribution towards the success of the consumer movement. Groups of the women meet once a month just to discuss social and economic problems. They then point out weaknesses and make suggestions and recommendations to the cooperatives regarding merchandising, improvements, and educational programs, and encourage women and young girls to join the movement.

From the guilds, the consumer cooperatives have officially appointed women's committees which meet regularly for a short session with the board of directors. They are invited by the board to sample food stuffs, to select dishes, and other kitchenware for quality and appeal, and to make suggestions regarding patterns and new lines of merchandise. Some of the local societies having an active women's guild have gone so far as to hire ladies qualified in domestic science, handicraft, etc., to conduct classes in those fields, to discuss ways of improving the cooperatives and extending their services; besides interviewing girls for jobs and helping them improve their work and working conditions. In Sweden and Denmark cooperative women's committees are paid part-time to do this type of work.

Institutes and guilds have done a great deal, too, in promoting night classes in many subjects of feminine interest—bookkeeping, sewing, music, dancing, dramatics, etc.; one interesting class in Sweden was the physical training or "slimming exercise" class for young married women. Although the work of the Institutes and other organizations is not coordinated in every respect, there seems to be a general understanding regarding the responsibilities of each group.

Education Techniques And Facilities

Adult education is, apparently, something that people can be made to like or dislike. Over the years, many have been treating this question the same as they would candy—changing the mixture, putting on a new coating, adding nuts to it, every couple of years, but always including the same old basic ingredients. The British cooperative movement made little progress with its educational program until just before the first Great War. They had talked a great deal about it. Some of the larger societies had installed libraries and reading rooms and a few of them had conducted night classes. But, in all, little was accomplished among the members. The officials in many instances became more interested in business affairs and in high rates of dividends, than in the social ideals of the pioneers. In Britain, as well as in the

other countries, they tried many of the same approaches that have been following here for many years. Education committees, study groups, short courses at the local centers—all those were appealing for a time, but when the first attraction was worn off, a new approach had to be made. Now, the cooperatives, the labor unions, the farm organizations and all who desire real progress in adult education have found that the most effective method is to bring the people together at a center away from their own homes, and get them to concentrate on special problems for short periods.

There are national cooperative colleges in practically every European country, and some local schools or training facilities as well. The cooperative college in England includes the whole educational department of the British Co-operative Union. From there, correspondence courses are arranged with the local societies through their educational secretaries. There are courses in Co-operative History, Merchandising, Economics, Accounting, etc., which prepare both the members and the staff for entrance to the college. Students are selected by the local societies on the basis of a recommendation and a written examination. Most of them are sent to the college on full salary, and with scholarship assistance either from their local society, from the Wholesale, the Co-operative Union, or from some other source. The courses run nine months and are divided into three different faculties: social, managerial, and secretarial. The social course is taken by those interested in field work, research, personnel management, economics, etc. It is a two or a three year course, at the conclusion of which the successful students are awarded diplomas. The managerial course is a three year course, but before entering it a student must have two or three years' practical experience in a local society. Complete and definite courses in merchandising and all managerial work are given, and each year the student must pass a written examination. The secretaries' course is a two year course and includes book-keeping, accounting, office administration, and training in the duties of a secretary in a large business organization. The successful completion of each of these courses warrants a diploma which entitles the student to certain letters, which are recognized by educational circles—in the country. They are roughly equivalent to a Bachelor of Science Degree in those particular fields.

In the 1950-51 term there were over one hundred British students at the College and the number is steadily increasing as new accommodations are available. On the international course, there were representatives from each of the British colonies and from many of the Dominions, as well as selected students from the Scandinavian countries, and other parts of the Continent. This formed the basis for an international discussion group for the whole college. Visiting speakers are brought in weekly to discuss questions of special interest. On the Continent, people's schools for one or two week specialized courses are gaining approval. Instead of having a few people come to a center for a long course, they try to get as many as possible together for a short course; this works well in Finland and Sweden, where they put on special courses of six days' duration. Local directors, for example, come in to get some fundamental economics and a deeper insight into the questions on which they have to make decisions. Then during the special "self-service week" all the managers of the self-service grocery shops are brought together. Sample shops are set up to demonstrate the proper methods of merchandising and display. They are taught to advise their members about the best quality merchandise, why they should buy this and not that, instead of trying to sell the product on which there is the highest profit. They hold short courses for educational secretaries, for study club leaders and for groups of officials in special fields of work. At those schools there are complete facilities for accommodating those students each week, and expenses are paid out of the educational fund of the local society. Every session is very carefully planned and no time is wasted. There is planned discussion periods and ample opportunity for people who are interested in the same work to meet and to exchange opinions, whereas this is impossible when instructors go out to the local societies. It has been found that in this way more people can be reached and more work accomplished at far less expense than by travelling through the country holding meetings and local short courses. There is a cooperative school of this type in nearly every country. Usually they are financed by the educational department of the cooperatives, with support from the universities and research institutes. (To be continued)

BUCKINGHAM, England.—(CP)—Because of shortage of men for such jobs as "garage collectors" local authorities are trying to obtain licences to bring over workers from Holland.