

THE GUARDIAN

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CHARLOTTETOWN, WEDNESDAY, AUG. 27, 1952

Atlantic Round Trip In A Day

Although she did not break her own east-west Atlantic crossing record established last year a British Canberra bomber has accomplished a far more significant thing. Crossing the Atlantic in both directions in a single day, with plenty of time to spare, gives altogether a different aspect to distance and locality.

People have been saying for many years that the world is growing smaller and the observation is none the less true for repetition. When it takes some four hours to cross the Atlantic, the Atlantic for practical purposes is no more of a barrier than was a fifty-mile journey in the days before steam, or a ten-mile journey before the construction of good roads.

Whether we like it or not the distances between continents and countries has vanished and we are today living as next-door-neighbours to all the peoples of the earth. In the phrase of the late President Roosevelt it has become all-important that we be a "good neighbour."

Agricultural Research

The United Nations Food and Agricultural Organization reports that agricultural research in the United States in the past 30 years added at least \$2,000,000,000 a year to farm income. Yet the total amount spent on research by state and federal departments of agriculture during the last 30 years is only about \$1,000,000,000. No comparable Canadian figures are available, says the Ottawa Citizen; but the dividends from Canadian agricultural research probably are equally high in relation to the provincial and federal government funds expended. Teamwork between scientists hastens the time when the benefits of their work in every country are available to agriculture.

Acknowledging this fact, FAO has called a meeting for September in Rome to discuss the establishment of facilities for exchanging agricultural research information in Europe. Traditionally, the 20 European members of the U. N. agency work independently to improve their agriculture through scientific research. An FAO system for recording information on agricultural research projects will allow these scientists to learn of related work in other countries. As American and Canadian scientists have profited from an exchange of information between state, provincial and federal research institutions, so European research will benefit from the international teamwork that FAO is promoting.

Oldstyle Campaigning Best

With television as well as radio in the field, it is interesting to note, from a Washington correspondent in the New York Times, that there is not the slightest prospect of the oldtime personal tours being abandoned in the U. S. presidential election campaign. Ever since 1928, when Governor Alfred E. Smith of New York convulsed the sophisticates by calling it the "radio" men "more progressive than understanding have been trying to make electronic devices do all the jobs that used to be done by rail in the 'swing around the circuit'"; but it hasn't worked.

In the air-conditioned television studio, there can be no rude interruptions from the unseen crowd; still, the campaign trains—or planes, in some cases—are being made ready again, as they have been in many a national election year, and as they will be in many more. It is recalled that Franklin D. Roosevelt liked to mix with people in this way—and some thought this was his most successful way of sensing currents of popular thought! Then there is the fact of local and sectional pride of place. People like not only to hear and see a national candidate but to see him sometimes on their home grounds. Not to visit a region is sometimes regarded as snubbing it.

President Truman's astonishing victory in 1948 is viewed by nearly all political observers as closely related to his famous "whistle-stop" tours, where he was often almost elbow to elbow with the public. This permitted him to make his fight with a homely, personal vehemence that would have been all but out of the question on radio or television appearances.

There is no substitute for the personal touch. Canadian as well as American

politicians realize this fact; at least the successful ones have done so, and leave it to the "also rans" to do the major part of their campaigning before a microphone.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Fifty men, women and children survived a plane crash into the Mediterranean Sunday. The large number of passengers saved is attributed to the seats being placed facing backwards in the four-engined Hermes.

The mystery of the sabotaged R. C. A. F. aircraft at Greenwood is deepened rather than otherwise by the R. C. M. P. statement that no foreign power is involved. It is perhaps better, however, to be mystified than threatened by fifth column activity.

Sir Roland Hill, originator of the penny postal system, died this date 1879. He was early interested in mathematics and later engaged in mechanical inventions. His ideas on a uniform rate of postage, regardless of distance, were published in pamphlet form in 1837. In 1840 they had become a reality.

While Canada, Czechoslovakia, Poland, Puerto Rico, United States and USSR registered considerable increases in real income per capita from 1938 to 1951, on the other hand Denmark, Finland, France, the Netherlands, Switzerland and Turkey indicated only a moderate increase. A third group, including Burma and Greece, were below pre-war levels.

Newspapermen, even more than the reading public, should distinguish between a "mystery ship" and an unidentified one. A commonplace vessel going about its business and suddenly sunk by explosion or otherwise may be unidentified. For an element of mystery there should be circumstances which would make it strange that its name should not be known.

"Soup kitchens, but nothing to eat in the soup kitchens", was the highly dramatic prediction of the president of the Manitoba section of the Farmers' Union if farmers move into the cities and compete for jobs with city workers. The warning was addressed to delegates of the T. L. C. and they no doubt mentally translated it to mean that labour cannot completely disregard the interests of the farmer.

Seven nickel-bronze doors are Canada's gift to the United Nations General Assembly Building in New York. Each of the doors is four feet wide and nearly 10 feet tall. Each bears four plaques bearing figures symbolizing truth, peace, justice and fraternity. Those four words bespeak the aspiration of all people of all races. The doors were designed by Ernest Cormier of Montreal where they are being cast.

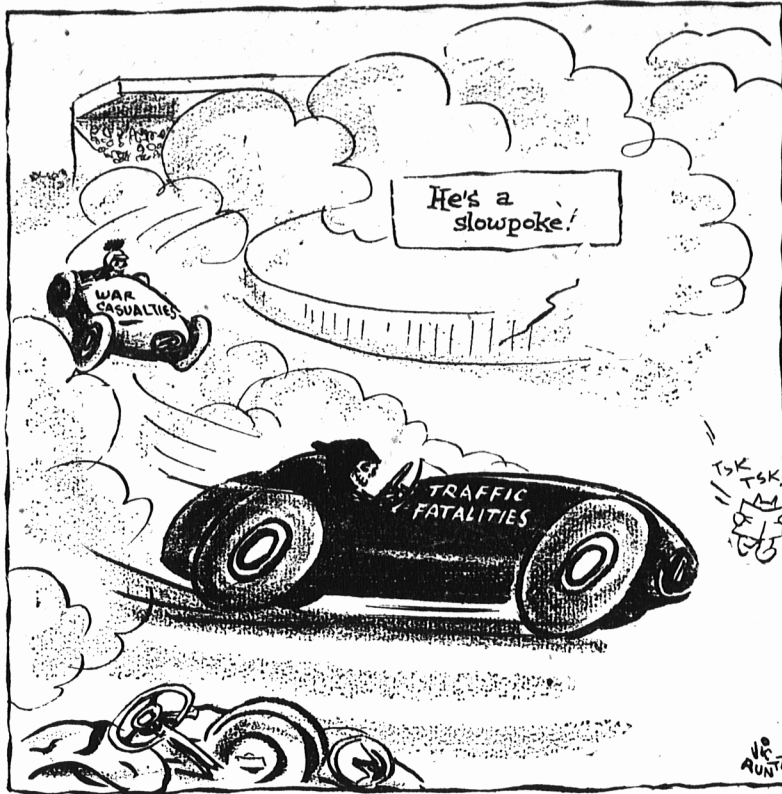
A South African anthropologist started a controversy among his colour-sensitive countrymen when he said that coronary thrombosis, and not "black nationalism" is a potential killer of white civilization. Although there is evidence of what might be regarded as "stronger construction" in Negro hearts, coronary thrombosis is not the result of structural weakness as will be learned when the Negro assumes his share of the worries.

The lost continent of Atlantis may have been found if the claims of a German scientist are verified. He says that a diver of his expedition found what he believes to be a King's castle and a temple of legendary Atlantis on the bottom of the North Sea off Heligoland. The scientist said he followed closely the directions contained in the writings of the ancient Greek philosopher, Plato.

This Province has experienced what may turn out to be another record year for the tourist industry. There were more tourists here than ever before and it is believed that what all reports are in, the money spent will also reach a record high. Chester, N. S., on the other hand reports a serious drop in tourist business. Residents are concerned at the proposed sale of their two largest hotels which once catered to throngs of tourists each year.

The original source of a blunder famous amongst newspapermen was revealed by Mrs. Esther Crane on the BBC. Speaking of her experiences on her husband's paper, "The Japan Advertiser", she recalled: "We had Japanese printers who knew no English and our misprints have travelled round the world. One wedding, they put 'The Bride's dress was punk'. Another bride was given away by 'an Englishman of noble girth'. And the famous one: 'Correction, we apologise for referring to Colonel so-and-so as a battle-scarred veteran, it should be bottle-scarred veteran!'"

Grim Racers



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.

LET US HONOUR THE FLAG

Sir,—After the first World War a friend told me this story: "One dark, chilly night I was alone on duty in the trench, walking back and forth. I was pretty lonely. At one turn I went a little farther and there, sticking in the bank, was a little Union Jack. It gave me such a lift of inspiration that I shall never forget. That night the whole might of the British Empire was with me." Who can measure the inspiration the Union Jack has given to men in a crisis? It has turned mere men into heroes. It has given one the strength of ten. It has saved life. I remember the story of the man, condemned unjustly to die, when a British ambassador rode up and wrapped the flag about the man before the firing squad.

It is a notable fact that in every corner of our colonies the British flag has stood as the symbol of toleration and fair play. For example, the East Indian immigrants were often falling into trouble with the police, but they always had the Protector of Immigrants to plead their cause, a man appointed by the Indian Government with the co-operation of the Trinidad. There the poorest East Indian got the same justice in court as the man with money and a white skin. Under the British flag court favours cannot be purchased. It would be unfair to say that our flag has no stain for it has. The Amritsar massacre in 1919 and the opium war with China in 1840 are instances and yet we claim there is no colonial flag so clean as the Union Jack.

Every school in this province should have its flag and lessons should be given on its significance. Is there a school in the United States without the Stars and Stripes? Every school day the pupils are lined up to salute the flag. Is there a child in the U.S. who does not know what these stars and stripes mean? The Jehovah's Witnesses call this idolatry and have refused to salute the flag and for this refusal they have been put in jail. That is going too far, but we don't go half far enough. Our flag is the symbol of a heritage that we have reason to be proud of, and why not more often say so? I am, Sir, etc. W. I. GREEN Stanley Bridge.

Defending A Legend

(Vancouver Sun) A press service sends a news story out of Washington calculated to dispel the current rumor that flying saucers may come from some other planet.

This story points out that, even travelling at 25,000 miles an hour, it would require three years to journey from Mars to Earth. And then the story asks what Martian wife, or what wife of any kind for that matter, would trust her husband out of her sight for six years.

We are not acquainted with the temperaments of Martian wives, although we would guess that any man obsessed with interplanetary travel could become an awful bore around the house.

But from a purely technical standpoint, this story has overlooked a most important factor. And that is that time, being entirely relative, may not be the same on Mars as it is on Earth. The mayfly lives for one day only. But according to mayfly standards, that single day may constitute a long and fruitful lifetime, provided you accept the dreadful thought that one sunset could be enough for any living being.

On the other hand, some turtles are said to live for centuries. Thus,

Notes By The Way

More than Alderman Miller will wonder what we're coming to when sixteen-year-old school boys are paid nine dollars a day to deliver the city's light and water bills. That's pretty good pay for temporary, holiday work, no matter what the age of the worker. It's nice starting pay for a sixteen-year-old lad. One can only wonder what he will expect when he finishes school and begins looking for a regular job.—Edmonton Journal.

A new type of trombone has been devised which slides sideways to the right instead of up and down. This looks, on the face of it, to be a progressive step, for the trombone is an ubiquitous instrument. It has an annoying habit of poking its nose into everybody's business. If you happen to be in the neighborhood at all. However, it does lend itself to the flamboyant performance and can rise, or plunge, to moments of virtuosity when an artist knows his stuff.—Hamilton Spectator.

The glory of London has been in the past its trees. It is disconcerting to learn from W. E. Foster, parks superintendent, that our trees are growing old and weak not only from old age but because with pavements they are not getting the nourishment they should. The cost of maintaining them also is increasing. Mr. Foster is proposing that when new trees are planted to replace the old ones emphasis should be put on trees which grow only 30 feet in height. Which may be sound and necessary, but wherever possible the old trees should be retained and new trees should be maples and elm which are so typically Canadian.—London Free Press.

John Forbes-Sempill, 24, is the son of a British admiral, and has, fortunately for him, wealthy connections. Recently he wrote a play called "Lion's Corner," which was produced at a theatre in the West-end of London. Next day the newspaper critics panned it, and when the members of the cast—18 of them—arrived for the second performance, he told them there would be no second performance. He gave them cheques for one month's salary, and led the way to an adjoining saloon and stood them all drinks. He agreed that the professional critics were better judges of a play than he was. He did not make a squawk. Mr. Forbes-Sempill may be a poor playwright, but he is a good loser.—St. Thomas Times-Journal.

Dr. Lloyd P. MacHaffie, medical officer of health for the public schools of Ottawa, is happy to be able to show that 1951 was another diptheria-free year for the 15,000 pupils in the 37 schools under his jurisdiction. His experience has been like that of the people of Brantford which has been free of diptheria for so many years now that nearly everybody forgets when the last case occurred and feels confident there never will be another. That, however, is where a word of warning should be interposed. The fact that there has been no diptheria here since November 18, 1930, is, in itself, no guarantee of perpetual immunity.—Brantford Expositor.

"It's the same old story we've heard hundreds of times," commented a Detroit sheriff on the defalcation of a bank employee who got away with \$45,000 in bank funds. The same old story was, the man had got to gambling, had taken some money to cover his losses and to try to recoup them and only got in deeper and deeper. There is in human nature a gambling instinct. But it is one to keep under control. Unfortunately, some seem unable to keep it under control, once bitten by the bug. It becomes an unreasoning disease, often leading to disaster for the victim and his family. The gambling instinct definitely isn't one to be encouraged or promoted.— Windsor Star.

Old Charlottetown

(And P. E. I.)

QUALIFIED COMMENDATION

"The Charlottetown Debating Club met on Friday last to discuss the question: 'Is the Royal Agricultural Society, in its present state, a benefit to the Island?' On the question being put, although all seemed to be of opinion that it was of very little benefit, indeed, in its present state, still the majority thought it was some benefit, and the question was decided accordingly. In order, however, to represent the views of the Club more clearly the following resolution, being moved by Geo. Beer, Esq., and seconded by A. H. Yates, Esq., was carried unanimously: 'That in the opinion of this meeting, an Agricultural Society, adapted to the wants of P. E. Island, ought to be liberally endowed from the public funds to the amount of at least \$500 per annum, which amount should be expended in the awarding of premiums for agricultural implements, cattle shows, industrial exhibitions, of our agricultural products, enclosing of farm yards, and the collection and manufacture of manures.'—The Islander, Dec. 26, 1952.

The Age-Old Story

And there appeared a great wonder in heaven; a woman clothed with the sun, and the moon under her feet, and upon her head a crown of twelve stars; and she being with child cried, travailing in birth, and pained to be delivered. And there appeared another wonder in heaven; and behold a great red dragon, having seven heads and ten horns, and seven crowns upon his heads. And his tail drew the third part of the stars of heaven, and did cast them to the earth; and the dragon stood before the woman which was ready to be delivered, for to devour her child as soon as it was born. And she brought forth a man child, who was to rule all nations with a rod of iron: and her child was caught up unto God, and to his throne.

The Poet's Corner

PRAIRIE BOY

Amid a stubbled sea of gold Under a sky of cobalt blue He stands beside the right-of-way And sees the noonday train pull through.

Wistful he sees the windowed cars, The flashing wheels, the unknown faces, Leaving a cloud of dust behind, Sweep off to far and unknown places.

And as the last sad echo fades He, soul-imprisoned, sees depart The magic cities in his mind, The happier countries in his heart.

—Arthur Stringer

while a mayfly is getting a middle-aged spread along about two in the afternoon, the turtle is still going on the town at the age of 150. How do we know the Martian time system is the same as ours? Martians may be intelligent turtles. They may be educated mayflies. We might say in conclusion that we are prepared to invoke almost any doctrine of spurious science to defend one of the few romantic legends of our age.

Egypt's Man Of Destiny?

(London Observer)

The abdication of King Farouk was a classic illustration, with many parallels in Egypt's history, of the fate that awaits a ruler who relies for power on an army which he neglects to control effectively. But General, Mohammed Naguib's coup in Cairo was also something more than a modern example of the ancient king-making by the Praetorian Guards or by Egypt's own Mamelukes.

It was the climax of a long constitutional conflict which, together with the nationalist struggle against Britain, has been the main preoccupation of modern Egyptian politics.

It was also a reflection of the social changes which have been taking place at an increasing speed in Egypt and elsewhere in the Middle East, as the old-established Islamic society of that area adjusts itself to Western political and technical ideas.

During the past two or three years it was becoming increasingly obvious that big internal changes were imminent in Egypt. The two traditional sources of authority in the country, the Palace and the Waft nationalist party leadership, were both discredited with the public. New forces were gaining ground among a disillusioned public, especially among the younger generation.

Those who wanted reforms were to be found among many parties and most of all in no parties at all: reactionary Muslim Brothers, nationalist radicals, young army officers and sympathizers and Left-wing Waftists. Many of them were from the rising middle classes and semi-educated city workers. And, like the enthusiastic and ineffective idealists among the Russian aristocracy, there were liberals among the pashas, too.

All this ferment lacked a leader to mould it and harness it to action. Now General Naguib has appeared and is for the moment the master of Egypt. But whether Naguib is merely a temporary instrument for striking the first blow, or a man capable of providing the leadership Egypt needs to direct what is in essence a revolutionary process, is a question which cannot yet be answered.

The little that is known about General Naguib, personally, does not provide many clues. He was born 52 years ago in Khartoum, the capital of the Sudan. His father was an Egyptian army officer who became a police officer in the Sudan government; his mother was half-Egyptian and half-Sudanese. He spent his early years in the Sudan, and went to the Gordon College school built in Khartoum with subscriptions from Britain as a memorial to General Gordon. From there he went on to the Royal Military College in Cairo, and afterwards pursued the normal course of a career officer, rising at sedate intervals from lieutenant-colonel.

But there were intervals which suggested capacities and interests beyond those of the average officer. While in the army, Naguib took degrees in law and political economy and learnt French, German and Italian, as well as English, which he now speaks moderately well.

well. In 1939 he was given a job on the Egyptian General Staff and went to Europe on a study course, but he has never visited Britain. When the Palestine war came in 1948, he was commanding a machine-gun battalion in the Sinai desert. In the fighting against the Israelis he proved himself a courageous commander and was wounded three times. After the campaign he was appointed Director of Infantry Training, with the rank of major-general, and he was also head of the organization looking after disabled ex-servicemen.

British officers who have had dealings with him speak of him as a man of integrity and an excellent soldier, of medium height, lean-limbed face. He dresses casually and smokes a pipe. He is rather stern and taciturn in manner and does not talk much.

But when he does speak he does so boldly. He has never disguised his bitterness at the nepotism which weakened the Egyptian army. He shared the humiliation felt by many Egyptian officers at the defeat of the Egyptian army by the Israelis and put most of the blame for the defeat on the Palace for favouring incompetent commanders and protecting corruption in the supply services.

The part played by defective arms in the Egyptian defeat may have been exaggerated, but there is no doubt that the Palestine defeat was a shock which aroused much self-questioning among Egyptian officers, and led them to realize more clearly the rottenness of the regime behind their backs.

Not enough is yet known of the origins of the coup which brought about the King's abdication to indicate with certainty whether Naguib himself was really the prime mover, or whether he was chosen as the suitable leader by a separate organized group which had the plan ready. It seems that in the first stages of his coup his arms were in fact limited to carrying out a purge of the Army and securing his own threatened position, and that, having clipped the King's claws, he was prepared to allow him to remain on the throne. But he quickly realized that he would not be free from danger so long as the King remained, and that his forcing Farouk's abdication was responding to the public mood.

The same momentum of events may well make it impossible for him to fulfil his pledge to remain outside politics. He is now the power in Egypt and every politician knows it. The recent history of Syria shows that army leaders in the Middle East cannot be the "backseat drivers" of politics for long. They are eventually forced to take over the wheel or get out of the car altogether.

Naguib's real tests are yet to come. A purge of the Palace is only the first step required in any serious cleansing of Egyptian political life. His dealings with the politicians, and especially the Waft leaders, Mustafa Nahas and Fawzi Serag-ed-din, will be closely watched by his fellow-countrymen, and especially by the impatient young officers round him, as a sign of whether he is only a creature of circumstances or really Egypt's man of destiny.

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