

# THE GUARDIAN

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"The strongest memory is weaker than the weakest ink."

WEDNESDAY, JULY 6, 1955

## Committed

A perfect example of a good deed being done for a questionable motive is the decision to send estimates of the Department of Finance to the Special House Committee on Estimates instead of continuing to study them in committee of the whole House.

It is realized by most people who take any interest in parliamentary affairs that it serves the interest of careful study of departmental spending and the expedition of business of the House to have select committees examine such matters in detail. Much of the improvement in the rules and procedure of Parliament in this country and in the United Kingdom in recent years has been in the direction of using such committees.

In the present instance, however, the Government obviously intended that the committee of the whole should examine the departmental estimates in question, other estimates having been finished by the select committee as long ago as April 27.

The move, initiated by Finance Minister Harris, presumably to end an Opposition filibuster against a Bill for indefinite extension of Defence Production powers, would under other circumstances be applauded as a means of speeding up business and insuring that the estimates of the Department would be adequately dealt with. It is otherwise, however, when it is done as a means of shutting off Opposition criticism rather than expediting business of the House.

## A Dramatic Change

Developments of vital interest to the Canadian farmer are noted by the Financial Times in London; nothing less than the dramatic change of great food exporting areas to being areas of heavy deficit.

The particular event which drew attention to this changing picture was Canada's successful marketing of several hundred tons of surplus grain in eastern Europe. A similar situation could, however, be found in Argentina and Australia where there was a need for an increased volume of food for urban populations in expanding industries, while at the same time labour was drained from the land.

This picture is not, of course, unforeseen, although the sudden success of this country in selling grain to what was formerly an exporting area causes natural surprise. Forecasts made by United Nations agencies and by United States planners showed clearly that food production must be stepped up very substantially if even present levels of nutrition are to be maintained.

What is much more likely is that not only will there be increasing urban populations but that they will enjoy higher incomes than at present and will demand a correspondingly higher standard of living.

All this points up the fact that the shrinking areas of high quality farm lands will be called upon to produce greater quantities of food and also the more desirable types of foodstuffs. The theories of some militarists that nations can be made self-sufficient by adapting themselves to a soy-bean diet may be dismissed in a world in which nations vie with one another to give their peoples the highest possible living standard.

## The Reciprocal Trade Act

The signing by President Eisenhower of the Reciprocal Trade Act, after months of debate and wrangling by Congressional and other groups, is, in the words of Clarence B. Randall, chairman of the Commission appointed by the President to develop a foreign economic policy for the country, "a positive step that tells the world that the United States is actually going to do something about lowering barriers and increasing trade."

As if South and Central America did not have enough troubles already, the Mediterranean fruit fly has invaded Costa Rica, the first to be reported in any American region since 1929. It is a relative of the Mexican pest of the same name, but much more destructive. Scientists from the United States Department of Agriculture have gone to Costa Rica to take charge of defence operations and, if possible, exterminate the invaders.

Evidently, the Chinese Nationalists are planning to stay on Formosa. One of the biggest irrigation dams in the Far East is now under construction there. It will cost in the vicinity of \$50 million, about half of which will be in the form of a United States long term loan. When completed it will provide about 120 million kilowatt hours of electric power annually. The two great problems in Formosa are periodical droughts and floods.

industries engaged in manufacturing for defence; they can always say that the importation of a certain article weakens their financial standing and, therefore, is dangerous to the security of the nation.

In any event, the economic isolationists and protectionists have already made plans to thwart the new legislation at every opportunity. A spokesman for the Nation-Wide Committee of Industry, Agriculture, and Labor on Import-Export Policy, which opposes any sort of unrestricted trade policy, has announced that the Committee will remain in operation throughout the coming year for the sole purpose of seeking further amendments to the law "in the direction of less White House control."

Not all business interests are against the new Act, however. Mr. Charles P. Taft of Ohio, chairman of the Committee for a National Trade Policy, had this to say about it: "Unfortunately, the new bill provides some new loopholes for a flood of new pressures on the President. The cohorts of protectionism will be busily engaged, as always, trying to build beaver dams in every channel of trade for innumerable products, to raise the restrictions higher by the escape clause or by special regulation. This Committee will not leave these channels unguarded. The forward-looking business men we represent will talk and act with increasing vigor to prevent these dams being built." Mr. Taft, incidentally, is a brother of the late Senator Robert A. Taft who for many years headed the right-wing, isolationist bloc in the Republican Party.

## EDITORIAL NOTES

There is apparently no limit to Communist hospitality this year. The latest invitation is from Poland to Queen Elizabeth, President Eisenhower, and President Coty, to attend a youth festival in Warsaw next month.

Moscow trained Communist agitators have been troubling Greece for many years. At least one of them has been put out of the way for good. He is Charilaos Florakis, who was sentenced to "seven times life imprisonment" for crimes committed during the Greek Civil War in 1947. Just to be on the safe side, he was given another 16 year term for some lesser offence.

Harsh critics of so-called "progressive" educational methods will be happy to hear that the Progressive Education Association, which since its founding 35 years ago has had considerable influence in educational matters, is about to wind up its affairs. Its aims and responsibilities — including the publication of a magazine — will be carried on, however, by the John Dewey Society, a somewhat similar organization.

In the last three years the United States Government has paid out \$15 billion in military and economic aid to 59 countries. Yet, it is reported that at this moment American prestige in Europe and Asia is as low as at any time since the end of the war. This situation is due partly, no doubt, to political considerations; but in large part it is due to downright ingratitude.

An English yachtsman has leased the island of Jethou in the English Channel, once a pirate's hideout. He and his wife will be the sole occupants of the island and, thanks to feudal laws which have not been repealed, will not be subject to taxation or any other Government regulation. The trouble is that there are not nearly enough such islands to supply the demand.

The British House of Lords is in even worse plight than the Canadian Senate as far as attendance is concerned. Out of a membership of about 900, the average daily attendance is around 35. Several possible remedies have been suggested; but perhaps the simplest one was inferred by Lord Brabazon when he remarked: "I don't attend as often as I should because the speeches are so interminably long."

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Never A Dull Moment

## Many Routes To Atomic Power

Just as conventional steam generating plants cover a wide range of designs and employ carbon fuels as diverse as crushed coal and bunker oil, so atomic power plants now being designed embrace several distinctly different types of reactors, and will use various nuclear fuels.

Of a dozen nuclear fueled power reactors planned in United States no two will be the same. Actually about six basically different types are under design or construction in this experimental period.

The first Canadian experimental power reactor, which will utilize Canada's plentiful supply of low grade fuels and use experience gained from NRX and NRU construction, will differ somewhat from most of the U.S. plants. Britain's 10-year program to build 16 reactors is based primarily on gas cooled installations unlike U.S. or Canadian designs. France is building two power reactors, similar in size but different in design.

The reason for such divergent approaches toward the same end is economic. The fact that nuclear fuels will provide steam-making heat and that they can be feasibly linked to a generating plant has been proved conclusively with two U.S. plants on an experimental basis.

A land based submarine engine has been operating in Idaho for nearly two years and has produced sufficient steam pressure to generate about 250 kilowatts of electricity. Electric power has also been generated from an experimental reactor at the U.S. Oak Ridge plant and at Britain's Harwell plant.

But all plants now on the drafting boards or under construction are aiming at the most economical route to electric power from nuclear fuels. Some types will undoubtedly prove more economic than others. Output of these experimental reactors will vary from two megawatts to about 200 Mw; in other words, from theoretical to substantially practical electric output. And at the same time they will prove in operation just which designs are most likely to bring nuclear-fueled power costs down to a competitive level with coal and oil-fired plants.

Economic and technical factors influence a choice between two fundamental types of atomic power reactor: "fast" reactors that require more expensive refined fuels; and "slow" or thermal reactors which involve a higher capital investment, but can utilize lower grade nuclear fuels such as natural uranium.

A small experimental fast reactor is already planned for operation by 1959 in United States and another that would produce 100 Megawatts electric output by 1958 is proposed by a group of utility companies. Both of these would be breeder reactors, producing plutonium in their operation which would itself provide fuel for further operation. Other designs now planned in United States are primarily for fast reactors which will get high heat transfer efficiency from the enriched or "fissile" nuclear fuels which the U.S. has in ample supply.

Canada, on the other hand, is a major world producer of natural uranium although it is only beginning to establish adequate refining facilities. The first experimental power reactor in Canada will be of a thermal type which uses natural uranium.

In Britain, immediate power needs are the major factor, and they are proceeding with the type of reactor which their engineers feel will give quickest and surest results. At first gas cooled breeder reactors will be built to provide both power and plutonium. Later, thermal reactors may utilize lower grade nuclear fuels that are enriched with the plutonium produced during the first phase of the program.

The type and design of a nuclear power plant is influenced by three primary factors: the type of fuel to be used; the type of moderator; and the coolant or transfer agent. As already noted, where an enriched or more readily fissionable fuel such as plutonium or Uranium 235 is to be used, neutrons need not be slowed down by a moderator and the plant can be smaller.

A thermal reactor such as Canada's NPD experimental plant to be built at Des Jochims, will employ heavy water to slow down neutrons so they can cause fission in uranium 238, the major component of natural uranium. Cost of this plant is estimated at about \$15,000,000 to produce 20 Megawatts electric output. By comparison, the 100 Megawatt fast breeder type plant proposed by Atomic Power Development Associates for construction in Michigan would cost only about three times as much. A fast reactor of the pressure water type proposed by a group of New England utility companies to produce 100 Megawatts electric power would cost the neighbourhood of \$25,000,000.

## The Gifted Child

(Ottawa Journal)

A subject of perennial interest to both parents and teachers, the welfare of the gifted child, has been discussed pretty thoroughly by the Ontario Urban and Rural School Trustees' Association in a convention at Bigwin Inn. Some speakers thought that the brighter pupils are being well served at present, while others believe that more should be done for them.

Mr. E. Brock Rideout of the Scarborough Board of Education declared that some of the best pupils get discouraged and drop out of school because they are neglected. They are considered able to look after themselves but, in fact, need special guidance. The president of the Ontario Teachers' Federation, Mr. George Roberts, complained that there is segregation of exceptional students in sports, but not in class work. Another point advanced was that the child who can move faster through the grades than his fellows should be enabled to do so.

As against these views, Dr. L. S. Beattie, superintendent of secondary education for the province, objected that the majority of pupils need the example and leadership of the apter ones and should not be cut off from their influence. Dr. C. C. Goldring, Toronto's director of education, pointed out that the emotional and temperamental needs of the child must be served. He opposed pushing the brighter ones ahead of their age group too fast.

All of these pros and cons are familiar ground in the controversy it is good that they should continue to be weighed. At the same time, much can be done to benefit the bright child without resorting to any drastic changes in policy or curriculum. The trustees could, for instance, spend more on school libraries. They could lighten teaching loads and decrease the size of classes so that no pupil, bright or otherwise, need be neglected.

built by private enterprise, generally the utility companies. Their designs are mostly worked out by engineering companies who have developed U. S. A. E. C. designs.

In Canada the first power plant will be a joint enterprise of private and public. The Ontario Electric Company, A. E. C. L. the government agency and the public owned utility, Ontario Hydro. The Government will then provide design for a 100 Megawatt plant to be built by private enterprise or public power utility. In Britain, the entire program to produce electric power from nuclear fuels is to be a government undertaking.

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## Medically Speaking

Herman N. Bundesen, M.D. YOU NEEDN'T FEEL OLD

You may be old — but you don't have to feel old. Replenish the supplies your body needs and you'll probably be able to keep up with persons a lot younger than you.

In 73 years old. Yet I bound around my office quicker than many employees 40 years younger. Supervising operations of the Board of Health in a big city like Chicago is a very taxing job. It doesn't wear me out. I'm fresh when I get to work in the morning and I'm fresh when I leave for home in the evening.

I'm not being immodest, but few persons believe that I am as old as I really am. Actually I find it difficult to believe it myself. I think I am living proof that you don't have to sit back and watch the world go by when you get up in years.

The secret of this full life for the elderly is simple: the right diet and the right supplements to that diet. The older you get the more important it is that you eat the proper foods in the proper amounts. Your diet should be high in proteins and amino acids which help burn up the carbohydrates and keep your weight down. Fats, of course, lead toward excess poundage, something you oldsters should be especially careful about.

But even with a careful diet, I believe, you cannot get enough vitamins, minerals and highly essential amino acids without putting on too much weight. What can you do? That's easy. Do what I do?

For years now I've been taking vitamin and mineral supplements. I'm firmly convinced that this has not only added years to my life, but life to my years as well. The earlier you start with these supplements, of course, the better. When you reach that period in life when you feel tired, nervous, lousy and mentally sluggish, you should certainly begin these supplements. Itchy skin often is a sign of vitamin deficiency. Just about everyone over 50 should be taking them.

Vitamin and mineral supplements in tablet, capsule and liquid form are available at your neighborhood pharmacy. I'm not going to advise any particular brand, but every reputable drug manufacturer makes tablets containing the essential daily minimum vitamin and mineral requirements. I think most of you should take them.

## QUESTION AND ANSWER

Mrs. K.: Can you tell me what might help or cure Buerger's Disease? Answer: There have been many types of treatment advised for Buerger's Disease. The production of fever by the injection of typhoid vaccine may be helpful. Injecting a salt solution into the veins is also of value. Cutting certain nerves which supply the blood vessels or injecting alcohol into them may also be helpful.

## HISTORIC LIGHT

First lighthouse on Long point stretching into Lake Erie from the Ontario mainland was built about 1830.

## PRINCE DIES

JAIPUR, India (Reuters)—Bhupal Singh, highest-ranked prince of Rajasthan, one of the largest political units in India, died in his palace Monday. He was 71 and had been ailing for some time. Bhupal Singh, whose honorary title of Maharajah Pratiksh was unique in India, was given the position in 1949 when the United State of Rajasthan was formed through unification of 14 states.

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## NOTES BY THE WAY

A cloud no bigger than a woman's fist may roll up next year to obscure some of the rainbow hues from this year's car models. From Windsor comes word that women are finding it too hard to avoid color clashes between their clothes and their cars. In such a quarrel the cars are bound to lose. No woman is going to dress to suit a piece of machinery. —Vancouver Sun

The number of boating tragedies of late should bring grim warning to everyone who contemplates going out in a river or on a lake to obey the simple rules of safety. "Rocking the boat" — or canoe — or standing up in one is hazardous, even when those taking the risk are excellent swimmers. As for the latter, they shouldn't assume too much, either. —Brantford Expositor

Many needless drownings occur at this time of year when the water is cold because persons dumped in the raft and turned boats strike out for shore without consideration. Most small craft are designed to float even over-turned, and will support safely the weight of two or three careful persons. An over-turned boat may be used as a life raft and manoeuvred to shore slowly by clinging swimmers. It is a far safer bet than attempting to win shore alone through long distances. —Brockville Recorder and Times

The Liberal member-elect for Kenora is puzzled because the Indians in that constituency all voted Conservative. Surely he did not expect them to go back on Premier Frost, a chief of the Mohawk, Ojibway and Pottawatami tribes. —Toronto Telegram

## The Age Old Story

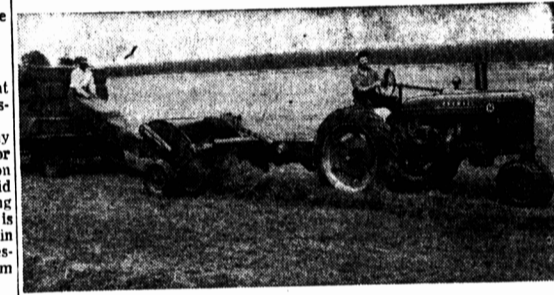
Canst thou by searching find out God? Canst thou find out the Almighty unto perfection? NILE'S SOURCE

The Kagera river system near Lake Victoria in Africa now is recognized as the true source of the Nile.

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