

THE GUARDIAN

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Fire Fighting Requirements

It is generally admitted that our City Fire Department is one of the most efficient volunteer organizations of its kind in Canada. Efficiency, however, can only be carried so far unless there is modern equipment available with which to work. At Wednesday night's annual meeting of the Department, some of the urgent requirements in this regard were pointed out. Specifically, the need is for a portable generating lighting plant, not only to safeguard the men from overhead high voltage wires while working on the new aluminum ladders, but also to facilitate the rescue of persons from endangered buildings; a new fire alarm system with automatic air horn replacing the fire bell; a life net; wider doors, opening upwards, at the Fire Station to facilitate speedy exit of the fire trucks, and a new pumper to replace the LaFrance equipment now twenty years old. Weighed against the cost of one disastrous fire, the expense involved in obtaining all this equipment is of minor consideration. The City Council, of course, must keep a watchful eye on every item of expenditure; but fire-fighting equipment has always been regarded as a gilt-edged insurance investment. Our firemen are the best judges of what is urgently needed in this respect. The spotlighting and new alarm system are particularly important, and should be given the earliest possible consideration by our civic authorities. Another matter of importance is the need for greater co-operation by motorists, cyclists and all our citizens in keeping traffic clear for the fire trucks. This has been a perennial source of complaint by our firemen, whose efforts are handicapped by thoughtless people trying to race them to every fire. This practise is not tolerated in other cities, and there is no reason why it should be permitted here.

No Good Being Sorry

From time to time the Press records the death by fire of small children whom parents had left unattended at home, sometimes only a very short time. A coroner's jury in Nova Scotia, reporting on the death of four tots declared, "We strongly condemn the common practice of many parents leaving children of these ages alone in the house." "Safe at home" is a sadly misleading phrase. More accidents occur in the home than anywhere else and, incidentally, more in the kitchen than in any other part of the house. We demand drastic punishment for anyone deliberately killing a fellow human being, yet it makes little difference to the victim whether death came by intent or neglect. The remorse of the person responsible is probably greater in the latter case.

Report On Drunken Driving

Two experts named months ago by the Ontario Liquor Control Board to study the problem presented by the automobile driver who mixes liquor and gasoline have made a 72-page report. They went to Europe, to the U. S., and found that 28 nations had been sufficiently concerned over this problem to do some work on it. But they have no final easy solution to offer. One thing they do make clear, says the Ottawa Journal, is that the problem of the drinking driver is greater than official statistics would indicate. The difficulty of proving drunkenness in court and the reluctance of police to lay a serious charge in border-line cases accounts for this fact. Wisely too the experts point out that passing laws is not the final answer, that well-enforced laws are a step in the right direction but fall short of a solution. The report has considerable to say about so-called scientific tests for drunkenness, or to prove the amount of alcohol in the blood. The best way, they claim, is a blood test but to make this wholly convincing a vein must be tapped, and here arises the question of violation of individual rights. The less accurate breath test is suggested as a compromise, one now widely used in many American states. The experts also point out that a problem in Canada is lack of a clear definition of the terms "intoxication" and "under the influence" and a conflict between the Criminal Code and various highway acts. One definite line is suggested in the re-

port—improvement of education in the dangers of drinking and driving and that such education should not be confined to problem periods like Christmas and the New Year holiday. Here, apparently, suggests the Journal, is something on which liquor boards and highway departments might get together. One time when every driver could be reached with education material is when licences are renewed, but to public knowledge no attempt has ever been made to use this golden opportunity.

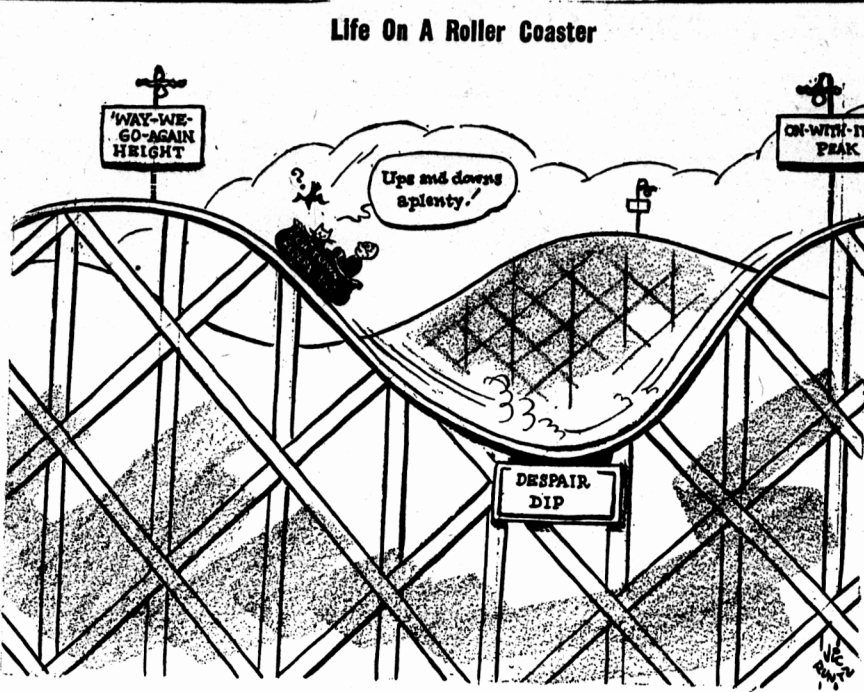
EDITORIAL NOTES

Alas, the chief centre of attraction for many in the city and district has been the Weeks' murder trial, seating capacity in Court being at a premium. The city Fire Brigade know what they want to continue to provide an efficient service and have told the City Council so in plain terms. The railways' application for a further five per cent rate increase comes up today. The rail strike blew over. Now it is a matter of "raising the wind." The Federal Government intends locking the stable door after the steed has been stolen. They admit 4,500,000 pounds of New Zealand butter but announce that in future a government permit for imports will be necessary. Final day of the Provincial Agricultural Conference. Federal and Provincial officials continue to demonstrate that "the evils of divided jurisdiction" can be and are overcome when the will to work together is strong enough. The United States Government requires 160,000,000 gallons of industrial alcohol for synthetic rubber and other purposes. Canadian requirements will be proportionately high which should make distillery construction a very sound proposition.

The discovery of a \$2 bill in a can of beans by a Winnipeg girl has given rise to much speculation. It really seems to smack of graft. Somebody probably dipped into the wrong pork barrel by mistake. The U. N. genocide convention has now received the necessary 27-state approval to bring it into effect although this country, the United States and Russia have not yet ratified it. Outlawed are "acts committed with intent to destroy in whole or in part a national, ethnical, racial or religious group." Wholesale extermination may no longer be practised with impunity even in an otherwise righteous cause. Penny candy for the kiddies disappeared some time back, says The Gazette. Nickel pop vanished during the war, but made a brief comeback until Mr. Abbott's baby budget threw a monkey wrench into the business. Bottlers have been holding out for months, but the pressure has been growing. One outfit in Winnipeg went to seven cents a couple of weeks ago. Others in the industry had to follow to keep going. That made it unanimous in the West. It's a safe bet the tide will spread until nickel pop becomes dime pop everywhere.

Rt. Hon. Augustine Birrell, English barrister, essayist and politician, born this date 1850, his centenary being celebrated in London a year ago. Was Liberal Secretary for Ireland, and under his regime, the Irish University Act, Irish Land Act, and Home Rule were carried. He subsequently resigned as the result of the Dublin Rebellion of Easter 1916. Was elected Lord Rector of Glasgow University in 1911. A witty speaker noted for "birrellisms", as an essayist he possessed a delightful style. Author of "Obiter Dicta" (1st and 2nd series), "Men, Women and Books", "Life of Charlotte Bronte", "Studies of Hazlitt and Marvell", "In the Name of the Bodleian", and "Frederick Locker-Lampson".

Conditions during 1951 which will affect all Canadian businesses cannot be anticipated, Mr. Homer Dufresne, president of the Shoe Manufacturers' Association of Canada, says in a year-end statement from the association. These conditions, he added, are being decided now in many world capitals and on the battlefronts and Canadian industry must simply be prepared to adapt itself to whatever these conditions may be. "Should there be, as a result of world development, serious demands for military footwear in Canada, the Canadian shoe industry is well-equipped and organized to supply them without endangering civilian supplies," Mr. Dufresne said. Naturally, this is not the kind of business the shoe industry seeks, but its representatives, and those of the leather and other allied industries, have already offered their full co-operation to the government, through the Hon. C. D. Howe, Minister of Trade and Commerce.



Life On A Roller Coaster

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.

APPALLING WASTE
Sir, — I hate gloomy subjects; but in this dark age one cannot always choose a cheerful topic. We are under orders to cast our goods to the winds, and millions are small talk. We are doomed to waste. We have kissed the feet of Mammon. "Now, boys," he says, "tighten your belts. You are heading for a 20-cent dollar, but take it. It is what you have been working for." All along, prosperous people have been putting their spare cash to selfish uses instead of serving the Kingdom of God. Now they are paying up. "Whatever a man soweth that shall he also reap." This fabulous war-waste, under compulsion, may help to save us from final disaster.

But what shall we say of willful, open-eyed waste that men and women pour down their throats? Beverage alcohol does no real good as every doctor will tell you. People who feel they have to pep themselves up with alcohol to become livelier guests at a dinner party can't have as much brains as they are supposed to have. The moderate drinkers in Canada last year consumed \$1,600,000 worth of drink per day; and here in this little Province over \$5,200 per day. These figures would be unbelievable were they not spelled out in the financial records of the Government and of these amounts the alcoholics have spent comparatively little. They haven't got it to spend. The moderates did the spending.

They say, "The money is cur own and we can do what we like with it." Your own to waste? I wonder. In view of so many good causes crying out for funds, schools and colleges, works of charity and mercy, here in this country and among backward people, the fact that sane and responsible people should waste so much money upon what helps neither physique nor intelligence is a great shame and, in the judgment of God must be a punishable crime. This waste is filling the pockets of a class of men who do not care a hoot for God or country. Let us hope, sincerely, for better things from the people who can "drink or leave it alone."

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

CAN WE WIN?
Sir, — Several of our leading statesmen have been saying that it is not inevitable which means that it can be avoided if wise measures are used.

The U. N. delegates are using all the firmness and tact that they can muster up. Some of them are asking us to pray for them, which shows that they believe with the Psalmist, that "Unless the Lord keep the city, the watchman watcheth in vain." And they have found guidance in the petty details of private affairs when they "committed their ways unto the Lord and He brought it to pass when they trusted in Him." Other delegates have not asked to be prayed for. But they need prayer just as much. The best prayer that we can offer for them is, that they all be constrained to see God's guidance for themselves in this crisis.

Our God is a God of peace, not of war. We do not ask Him to come over to our side. But we wish to be, and we believe that we are, on His side. Our enemies are also His enemies. Listen to the sworn statement of W. Z. Foster, head of the Communist party in the United States: "When a Communist heads the Government of the U. S., and that day will come just as surely as the sun rises, it will be a Soviet government and behind it will stand the Red Army to enforce the dictatorship of the proletariat." Also to the words of V. I. Lenin — "Give us the child for eight years and it will be a Bolshevik for ever." And again, Foster — "Our teachers must write new text books and rewrite history from the Marxian viewpoint." Let every praying father and mother ask the question — Who in ten years from now will be directing the fate of our children and grandchildren? Pray! Why not? Did prayer not save our armies at the gates of Paris in 1917? Who saved us at Dunkirk in 1940? The same God stands ready to keep us out of war entirely, if we give Him a chance. We did not "win" World Wars One and Two. It was just

The Poet's Corner

BEAUTY'S PENNY
Go, spend your penny, Beauty, when you will, In the grave's darkness let the stamp be lost. The water still will bubble from the hill, And April quick the meadows with her ghost. Over the grass the daffodils will shiver, The primroses with their pale beauty abound, The blackbird be a lover and make quiver With his glad singing the great soul of the ground; So that if the body rot, it will not matter; Up in the earth the great game will go on. The coming of spring and the running of the water, And the young things glad of the womb's darkness gone, And the joy we felt will be a part of the glory In the lover's kiss that makes the old couple's story. —John Masfield.

"I Was Just Thinking"
(Sandy Todd in Weekly Scotsman)

My ornithological friends may be interested in a further report on my observations of bird behaviour. The subjects of the study are two blue-tits and an unspecified number of sparrows. It has been my practice for some time to hang a partly-shelled walnut outside a window to provide the blue-tits with the vitamins they need in the winter months. My generosity is not altogether disinterested, for I must confess that I get a great deal of pleasure out of watching the antics of these acrobats of the bird world. The man on the flying trapeze is an amateur compared with the blue-tit that can hang upside down from a piece of string and drill the inside of a walnut.

The point of the story is that the local sparrows are intensely interested in these daily performances. They watch the show from ringside seats on a branch of a tree. When the acrobat flies away, they try to emulate his daring feats. Somehow, they never quite get the hang of it, and back they go to their perch, where they sit asking each other: "How the dickens does the blighter do it?" or chirps to that effect.

I am continuing my observation, and I hope to be able to startle the ornithological world soon by announcing that the blue-tit is giving personal tuition to the sparrows. Excited Husband — "I saw six flying saucers to-day." Practical wife — "But did they have cups to match?"

matter of "cease fire" at both times. The Communists have an idea that we should have no God but the State, and that we should serve the State with body, soul and mind, and that hate is better than love. We have a different idea, namely that God is love, that prayer is mightier than the atom bomb or the H. bomb. Also that we need to repent of our personal, national, and political sins. We believe that true prayer begins with repentance and penance or restitution. We might use Kipling's words — "Still stands the ancient sacrifice, the humble and the contrite heart." We believe that if we earnestly pray for all who are in authority, especially for the delegates to the United Nations, that peace will come in Korea, God's will is a peaceful settlement, not hate and murder. He knows the way. This then is our idea, in this war of ideas. You can not kill an idea with a shot gun. But you can trot out a superior idea. Our idea is Christianity in action. Our sovereign, King George, on Christmas 1939 quoted these words — "I said to the man at the gate of the New Year, bring me a light that I may tread safely. He replied — Put your hand in the hand of God. It will be better for you than a light, and safer than the known way." I am Sir, etc. J. A. MACKENZIE Kensington, P. E. I.

Old Charlottetown (And P. E. I.)

BACK TO TORMENTINE
From an account of the experience of Lieut. Colonel Sleigh, "late of Her Majesty's 77th Regiment," in crossing by ice-boat from Tormentine to Prince Edward Island in the early spring of 1852; continued from yesterday's issue.

"Nothing is more surprising than the sudden and almost instantaneous change which the Straits at times present. In an hour there has been known a free expanse of water of six to eight miles in extent, and before another hour the whole of that surface has been covered with enormous masses of ice, field-ice, detached blocks and mountainous bergs.

Our return towards New Brunswick was resolved upon by Irving in consequence of the gale which had sprung up, and with sundown not more than an hour and a half off it would have been dangerous to have remained out any longer, or otherwise we should have had to spend the night out in the Straits, on some migratory berg. We found a total change in the appearance of the ice: the masses were more open and separated, the large fields had passed to the south, and between the floating blocks, narrow passages, small lakes, and tortuous canals, enabled us to make good way. We went over in three-quarters of an hour the same extent we had before taken nine hours in crossing. "On approaching the shore-ice, the abrupt and rugged ridge over which we had to clamber in the morning had disappeared, and no difficulty offering, we were soon running along the ice, and before half an hour we were once more under Cape Tormentine, after being eleven hours out, a period of excitement and peril I shall never forget. Once more I found myself in old Mother Allan's kitchen, and the fat pork which was the day before treated by me with disgust, was eagerly devoured with a wolfish appetite. Before this report, however, I had changed my saturated habiliments, and enjoyed the comfort more than I can express.

"I was up early in the morning, and found Irving scanning the horizon; to my extreme satisfaction he reported the appearance of the Straits as favourable for a passage. The previous tempest had pretty well cleared the Gulf of ice, and nought but shore-ice leading to open water was to be found on this side. "By seven in the morning we were down by the boat, and harnessing on without loss of time, we hurried along the ice, so as to cross the open water before the wind might spring up again. Our little craft was soon afloat; and on a surface not presenting a ripple, we pulled away for about an hour and a half, when we approached white streaks of loose ice which we easily pushed through. But every mile the ice increased in density; the wind of the previous night had driven it all over from the New Brunswick shore to that of Prince Edward Island, and the storm must have been one of considerable force, from the mass of lolly afloat. "Lolly" is the term for a conglomeration of minute particles of ice, which is found some four feet deep in extensive patches, and which is most difficult to push through, as the boat-hooks are useless; nothing but the paddles employed with great strength could move us along. Then the surface frequently freezes over, and the danger of being caught by a nip is carefully guarded against. The lolly, which now boils and bubbles, will before night become of a congealed consistency, and form field-ice."

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Notes By The Way

"Most apartments are kept too hot," says a heating expert — and former janitor. — Ottawa Citizen.
A Winnipeg girl discovered \$2 in a can of beans, which isn't so very surprising, as canners have to keep down costs, and using a two-dollar bill (worth about 90 cents) as a substitute for pork is sound economy. — Ottawa Citizen.

Sign hanging at the gate of a castle in Banwell, Somerset, England: "This castle was built in the late nineteenth century and is of no historical value whatever. Please remember that this Englishman's castle is his home and do not intrude." — New Yorker.

A titled lady in England is fined \$4 10s. for abetting poaching. She may count herself fortunate that she was not living 150 years ago when, according to Arthur Bryant in his newest book, her offense would have meant transportation to Botany Bay, or had she made any show of resistance to the game-keeper the penalty would have been the gallows. — Hamilton Spectator.

Quibblers are not likely to agree, but the average citizen who endeavors to keep this reasoning on a plane of common sense will probably support the opinion expressed by Magistrate Harry Burville with regard to the ability of a police officer to determine whether or not a motorist is under the influence of liquor. His Workshop

Perhaps the world has not become quite so materialistic as some of its critics maintain. The hue and cry raised over the theft of the Stone of Scone has penetrated to all the four corners of the earth. The stone which was stolen Christmas Day from Westminster Abbey is the object of a search involving some 8,000 police officers who have already put in some thousands of hours of overtime work and who have used 200 automobiles burning 500 gallons of gas an hour. All on the stone's behalf. Certainly the desperate efforts being made to recover the Stone of Scone do not stem from considerations of a material nature. The vast attachment to the stone is purely sentimental and historical. The stone's material worth, at present building prices, is about thirty-five cents. — Brockville Recorder and Times.

The problem of municipal responsibilities may not be evaded. Either the province will have to assume certain functions in their entirety, such as welfare or policing or hospitalization of indigents, or it will have to make available to the large cities the free use of one or more tax fields in addition to property, adequate to carry the burden. The problem is admittedly difficult, because the province actually does not have the tax fields to allocate. That is the question Ottawa must be made to recognize, because the situation will only get worse the longer there is delay. — Toronto Globe and Mail.

The Age-Old Story
Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey, whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness? But God be thanked, that ye were the servants of sin, but ye have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you. Being then made free from sin, ye became the servants of righteousness. What fruit had ye then in those things whereof ye are now ashamed? For the end of those things is death. But now being made free from sin, and become servants to God, ye have your fruit unto holiness, and the end everlasting life.

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