THE GUARDIAN

Published every week-day morning at 136 Prince Street, Charlottetown, P. E. I., by The Thomson Company Limited.

"Covers Prince Edward Island Like the Dew"

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Associate Editor, Frank Walker

Branch offices at Summerside, Montague and Alberton. Authorized as Second Class Mail by the Post Office Department, Ottawa.

By Carrier: Charlottetown, Summerside $15.00 per annum. Elsewhere in P. E. I. $9.00. Other Provinces and U. S. A. $12.00 per annum.

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

SATURDAY, OCT. 16, 1954

Europe After London

It would be unfortunate were the sense of relief which has followed the London conference, and the outright jubilation which has attended ratification by the French National Assembly of the pact signed by Premier Mendes-France, to convey the impression that solidarity for European defence has been achieved.

There can be little doubt but that Foreign Secretary Eden's action in committing the United Kingdom to maintain troops on the continent of Europe turned defeat, diplomatically at least, into victory. The fact remains, however, that ratification of the successor to EDC by the French National Assembly is ratification in principle only. The skeleton of an agreement has been erected. It yet remains to be decently clothed in the flesh and bones of divergent national military forces working in full and effective co-operation.

Nor will it be all plain sailing for West German Chancellor Dr. Adenauer. The scars left on West German public opinion by the failure of EDC, which Dr. Adenauer championed, will not be eradicated overnight. Already there is more than a hint that German Socialists regard membership of NATO and the Brussels pact not as a privilege and an opportunity so much as a handicap on national aspirations for reunification.

Moscow, to be sure, will do everything possible to wreck the good work of the London conference. Already there are elements both in West Germany and in France who seek to postpone action in German rearmament until Mr. Vishinsky's latest proposals on disarmament are considered.

The task of integrating western defences within the framework of the London Act and the Brussels Pact is one to which the signatory governments, including Canada, must address themselves without delay. No matter how effectively this task is pushed to conclusion, however, the problem of German re-unification, so long as it remains unsolved, will constitute the Achilles' heel of western security. It is to this latter problem that western diplomacy must address itself with despatch.

Habitant Society

The social development described in the latest booklet published by the Canadian Historical Association does not conform with the account given by most historians of Canada. The reason, it is explained, is that most of them attempt to reconstruct the society of the French regime on the lines of the broken society, which existed in 1763, deprived of the most influential and competent part of its ruling class, a part which could not survive outside of the political and economic framework of New France and the French empire.

"Canadian Society in the French Regime", by Guy Fregault, attempts in its sixteen pages to compare the general characteristics of colonial society in America and shows the differences and also the similarities of origin and political and geographic factors which influenced the development of English, Spanish and French colonies. The Dutch, of course, were early subdued and largely assimilated by the English.

The development of French Canada is traced in some detail and it is particularly interesting to read the description of Canadian society around 1750, before its complete reconstitution under new circumstances. The population had not become numerous. The census of 1754 shows only 55,009 inhabitants. About 42,000 lived in the country. These enjoyed a considerably higher standard of living than in France, in no small measure contributed to by the fur trade.

The habitant enjoyed a relatively high standard of education and contemporary comment indicates that he showed a certain "insubordination" and "independence" of character. "Habitant", by the way, must not be confused with "paysan". It is a word borrowed from the West Indies meaning a factor in charge of a colonial enterprise. As a class they controlled the Councils that were associated with the Governor from 1647 on.

Urban workers received high wages. A carpenter was better paid than a member of the Superior Council. The power of the authorities was such, however, that Hocquart was able to settle a strike by throwing all the strikers into prison.

Titled or not, the lesser nobility or the upper middle class, enriched by commerce, set the tone of Canadian society. It constituted an oligarchy which shared the trading posts, occupied most of the public offices, and distinguished itself in military expeditions. It was that group, claims the author, that had built up Canada, the Canada that disappeared in 1760, by developing its economy, directing its territorial expansion and inspiring its politics.

No Longer Sheltered

Two recent announcements emphasize the pressing need for Canada maintaining specialized defenses. In Washington, American Aviation Magazine cites information from inside Russia as proving that the Red air armies now have reconnaissance craft capable of flying over Alaska and as far south as San Francisco and returning to Siberian bases. Both American and Canadian military sources have declared before now their belief, though it has not yet been proved, that Russian reconnaissance flights are already taking place over Alaska and Northern Canada.

In Victoria, Admiral E. R. Mainguy, chief of the Canadian naval staff, has confirmed that reports of Russian submarine activity off the West Coast of Canada and the United States are "continually" being received. "We see no reason why some of them shouldn't be true."

Canada's wars have always been far from the homeland. Canada, today, is an outpost, a first line of defence. In such a position, it is not just her armed forces which must realize that fact. In northern land defence, she depends on specially-designed long-range interceptor aircraft, alerted by radar screens, to cover both surface vessels and special aircraft, to keep open her sea lanes and protect her harbors and their roads.

As the Montreal Gazette points out, Canada cannot afford today's expensive offensive weapons, atomic bombs, intercontinental bombers, heavily-escorted fleets of aircraft-carriers. Canada must leave the major offensive tasks to her bigger allies, the United States and Britain. Canada is capable, however, of developing considerable defensive strength, strength which she vitally requires, as many of her border areas are so vulnerable to attack.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Tomorrow, the 18th Sunday after Trinity, the 19th after Pentecost.

* * *

Montague residents and others were glad to have the use of a temporary bridge while the new one was being constructed. They are even more pleased, however, that it is no longer necessary to cross by the temporary structure.

* * *

This Province looks on with interest at the research being carried on to develop a more economical coal-fired plant to produce power from Nova Scotian coal. If the cost can be brought down there appears to be no serious obstacle to bringing power from Cape Breton to this Province by cable.

* * *

The centenary of Queen's University faculty of medicine may also mark the beginning of a century of the family doctor. At any rate students were informed that at long last the general practitioner is making a come back at the expense of the specialist.

* * *

Two Connecticut firms which sold liquor to a driver who was later involved in an accident have voluntarily agreed to pay $22,000 to the father of a girl who was killed. No legal principle is established, but if it were, the vendors would become in practice practically insurers of the users of the highways.

* * *

Premier Hicks with unusual candor in a political leader has stated that there will be no Nova Scotian general election before 1957. The announcement may enable both parties to be at their peak of strength at that time but it may have the unfortunate result also of reducing interest in current political developments.

* * *

"Slope Arms!" will have to go if the FN automatic rifle is adopted, it is pointed out in a recent news story. The cocking handle is on the left and makes that particular drill practically impossible. Traditionalists may regret its passing, but for their benefit it will always be possible to turn out a guard armed with the pike, which was the original weapon so carried.

* * *

Oscar Fingall O'Flahertie Wills Wilde, Irish dramatist and essayist, was born this date 1854. His only novel, "The Picture of Dorian Gray," illustrates his aestheticism, the search for intense or rare sensations, and the superiority of the artist over conventional rules. His greatest success was in light comedy which gave full play to his fantastic wit. "Lady Windermere's Fan", "A Woman of No Importance" and "The Importance of Being Earnest" are among his better known works. The only moving words he ever wrote are in "The Ballad of Reading Gaol."

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.

POTATO MARKETING BOARD

Sir,—In view of the fact that Mr. Austin A. Scales has advised you by telephone of the partial contents of a letter he received from me dated Oct. 13, I believe it is in the public interest that the full context of that letter should be published.

I wish to assure Mr. Scales that there is not now nor ever has been any wish or intent on the part of any Board members to withhold from the public true and correct financial statements. I believe several past Board statements have been released to the public in a proper manner through the Provincial Legislature.

Any further attempt on the part of Mr. Scales or anybody else to cast doubt on the accuracy of Potato Marketing Board financial statements and their attached reports as compiled by the reputable accounting firm of H. R. Doane and Co. and which I believe are fully correct, not erroneous as he suggests, should and I believe will receive the public condemnation they deserve.

Two letters dated Oct. 4 were received by me from Mr. Scales, one regarding my statement at the Forum and the other re the Board's annual statements. In acknowledging these letters on Oct. 13 I stated:

"Regarding the former we wish to advise you that, in my opinion, the statement made in reference to your letter in the press of September 29th, one part of which I quoted and proved incorrect through an official statement from H. R. Doane and Company, fully justified the statement that such wrong and improper information given to the public by anyone was "not worthy of any reputable citizen in this province.' I also believe that these words clearly indicate their significance without enlarging further.

"At our last Board meeting when this whole matter was discussed no indication whatever was given that the personal views I expressed were not endorsed by Potato Marketing Board members.

"Regarding annual statements in the first paragraph of your letter you state that on August 24th, 1953 you were advised that copies of the annual statements of the Potato Board for the two preceding years had been filed with the P. E. I. Potato Marketing Board as was necessary. This happens to be just another incorrect statement. Our records show that at that date you were advised that such financial statements had been filed with the Provincial Marketing Board as was necessary.

"In reference to the last two paragraphs of your letter we can only state that when it became evident that certain persons were making wrongful statements both publicly and privately regarding the Potato Board finances the Board management decided that it was in the public interest to make the true facts available at once. This decision was endorsed by all Potato Marketing Board members.

"We trust that these facts will have the squaring away effect for which you have already thanked me."

I am, Sir, etc.,
DONALD A. MacDONALD
Chairman and Manager
P. E. I. Potato Marketing Board.

Old Charlottetown and P. E. I.

CHURCH SOCIETY

"A public meeting took place on Tuesday last, at St. Paul's Church, for the purpose of forming a Diocesan Church Society, upon the principal of that already in operation in Nova Scotia. His Excellency Sir C. A. FitzRoy has consented to become the Patron, and the Countess of Westmoreland, with her usual liberality, has presented the Society with a donation of five pounds. The annual subscriptions amount to nearly thirty pounds and we hope that, as the Society's objects are more generally understood, it will meet with liberal support."

—Royal Gazette, July 21, 1840.

NOTES BY THE WAY

This stuff should really go to your head. The Newark State Alcoholic Beverage Control Division has announced the seizure of a still and moonshine making equipment in Raritan township, Middlesex County. Among the seized materials was "one felt hat used as a strainer." — Saint John Telegraph Journal.

Getting people to church sometimes is quite difficult. But there's one young man in Chicago who's gotten into difficulties because he went too often. It may seem to have done him some good—for a while—but now he's accused of robbing the churches to pay for his new sports car. You see, his church visits were made late at night.

Some people occasionally employ odd methods to ascertain facts. Recently a cleaning woman, in doing her weekly stint in a nice home, found money under the rugs in various places. She knows, of course, that banking under the rugs went out of fashion decades ago. What she is now wondering did her employer want to test her honesty or see whether she cleaned under the rugs? That's the $64 question. —Kitchener - Waterloo Record.

"It is the most heroic thing she has done", said Marilyn Bell's teacher, in welcoming her back to school. It is probably true. Swimming Lake Ontario called for a lot of endurance. It took a lot of courage and good common sense and judgment for the seventeen-year-old girl to turn her back on all the allurements of a world that seemed ready to offer everything but the moon—for selfish reasons in too many instances. —Stratford Beacon - Herald.

Postage stamps are to be had in all the popular denominations at post offices. To purchase stamps letter of introduction is required. It is not a difficult task to make an estimate of the number and kinds of stamps needed over a given period of time and to stock up in advance. There are many people, however, who do not buy stamps in advance of the need at a post office. They prefer to wait until they have a letter addressed and sealed. Then they look about for a stamp. No doubt the nearest post office is many blocks away. Very likely it will be closed. The persons in need of a stamp then begin to eek out the persons who have supplied themselves with stamps in anticipation of need.—Vancouver Herald.

School board members and teachers alike in Victoria are jumping like the proverbial ton of bricks on a suggestion that special smoking rooms be fixed up in high schools for the use of students given to cigarettes or smoking in other forms. The suggestion was made by James McPherson, president of the Greater Victoria Parent-Teacher Association, who expressed the view that the idea should be "studied" by educational officials. Apparently, however, there will be no such "studying" by members of the school board or anyone else in an official capacity. According to the Victoria Colonist the verdict of teachers, parents, physical training instructors, and other commentators is "dead against the idea". Seemingly the suggestion is striking a lot of adults as both silly and unwarranted. They have also branded it as an "unnecessary expense". — Nanaimo Free Press.

Fire, from earliest times, has proved itself both a friend and a foe. In these northern climes, we cannot do without it to keep us warm through the chilly days of fall and the freezing days of winter. We can make good use of it to cook our food, and prepare appetizing meals. It serves us in industry and transportation, and countless other ways. Fire, when properly used, can indeed be a blessing. When it gets out of control, it can be a curse. —Quebec Chronicle-Herald.

You always can rely on the small fry for the unexpected. This should be a warning to automobile drivers, says the Province of Quebec Safety League. There is great danger on streets near schools, particularly at times when youngsters are arriving or leaving. The child shouldn't dash across the street without heeding traffic . . . but the unexpected may well happen. And the child could be your child. Drivers are asked to be cautious when they approach school territory. Treat it as sacred ground. A child may be dashing out on his bicycle. Take a few minutes and protect the life of your child. —Quebec Chronicle-Herald.

The sight of a row of cows reposing in the straw at the county fair, is an instructive sight. As busy as any being alive, even in repose, as they chew cud, busy manufacturing milk and cream, each bovine mouth operating like a factory that works around the clock. Oh, there will be some prizes awarded, and for the best of reasons. —Sydney Post Record.

The Age Old Story

I call heaven and earth to record this day against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing: therefore choose life, that both thou and thy seed may live: that thou mayest love the Lord thy God, and that thou mayest obey his voice, and that thou mayest cleave unto him: for he is thy life, and the length of thy days.

The Passing Scene

By Observer

SEQUEL TO ENLIGHTENMENT

It is customary to speak of the 18th century as the Age of Enlightenment, although just why the name become popular no one seems to know. The age certainly produced a great number of serious thinkers, most of whom spent their time and talents, not to mention tremendous amounts of energy, in trying to persuade themselves and others that a new and enlightened era was opening for the human race.

It was a time when all authority, political and religious, notably the latter, was being called into dispute; free thinking, something entirely different from freedom of thought, was seen by many of the leading philosophers of the period as one thing necessary for rapid intellectual and moral progress. Old institutions were suspect, just because they were old; new ideas, however fantastic, were welcomed, just because they were new.

Man would soon be free to live his life without fear, and without dread of forces which hitherto had been mysterious and unknowable. In the brave new world that was emerging every man would be master of his own destiny. Science was the hope of the world; in due time it would be hailed as the world's saviour. The arrival of universal happiness and salvation depended on how soon the new scientific "truths" could replace the old, worn-out "suppositions."

* * *

Philosophers vied with one another in blue-printing a social state in which religious, moral, political, and economic fulfilment would be sure, steady, and certain. Science, if allowed full sway over human affairs, soon would be able to do anything. It would bring enlightenment, peace, and universal goodwill—in other words, the full and abundant life. War, a relic of the dark ages and of human ignorance, would vanish from the earth as science removed its causes. Perhaps the foremost proponent of this humanistic and extremely optimistic view was the great German philosopher Immanuel Kant who wrote: "Violence on the part of the mighty will gradually diminish, obedience to law will increase; men will see themselves obliged first to render war more humane, then less frequent, and finally will abolish it altogether."

All this was to come about because science was able to make new morals, new wisdom, new techniques in righteousness, new strength in human relationships—in short, a new heaven and a new earth. The reason why men had fought one another and killed one another in the past was that they had not known any better. Ignorance, and stupidity were at the bottom of it all. When everybody became enlightened — a process which could not be long delayed —there would be no further reason or excuse for any kind of moral and social disarray; hence, no war.

* * *

Yes, the philosophers of the Enlightenment seem to have been a cheerful lot and there is no question about their sincerity. It is true that the science, of which they expected and prophesied so much, still was in a preliminary phase of operation, no great distance removed from crudeness. The new learning, which was to make everybody happy, was confined to the few; and, although many of the ancient institutions were being subjected to severe philosophic criticism, humanism was not strong enough as yet to build alternative structures.

Nevertheless, the hope of Kant and his kind—all very sincere and filled with a sense of mission—that a new and brighter day was about to dawn because science would make it so must have been, and in fact was, a source of considerable intellectual and moral strength. Many of the things which the 18th century philosophers predicted have, indeed come to pass. In the interim, especially in its latest phase, science has served well the material and cultural interests of mankind. But, for reasons which 20th century philosophers are unable to explain, although they are perfectly able to explain the symptoms, the peace and contentment which the architects of Enlightenment saw in their dreams have not arrived with the achievements of science; at least, not in a measure that would warrant our thinking of Kant and his disciples as good and trustworthy prophets.

* * *

Their belief that some day in the not distant future war would be banished because it is immoral and stupid may yet be realized; but it is no longer possible to believe that science or intellectual enlightenment will bring in that happy day; for science, in the testimony of its practioners, has done about all it is capable of doing in the matter.

It seems now that the enthronement of science as the sovereign arbiter of man's destiny is fast coming to an end. As one physicist, thinking no doubt of the hydrogen bomb, put it the other day: "Soon scientists will be fugitives from the people's wrath". Another is quoted as saying that "it would have been well if atomic power had never been heard of." This is, indeed, a sad sequel to Enlightenment.

No doubt it is right and proper that science should be removed from its high place of mysticism —it was a usurpation to begin with—but it does not seem right that it should be disparaged and blamed for all the world's ills. As the late Lecomte Du Nuoy, noted scientist and philosopher, said in his "Road to Reason", we cannot ask science to raise the moral level of humanity." That is not its field.

The Poet's Corner

INDIAN SUMMER

"Along the line of smoky hills,
The crimson forest stands,
And all the day the blue-jay calls
Throughout the autumn lands.

"Now by the brook the maple leans
With all his glory spread,
And all the sumachs of the hills
Have turned their green to red.

"Now by great marshes wrapt in mist,
Or past some river's mouth,
Throughout the long, still autumn day,
Wild birds are flying south."

—Wilfred Campbell

CANVASS FOR IKE GIFT

DENVER (CP)—Small children in the Denver neighborhood where President Eisenhower's mother-in-law lives collected $216 in a door-to-door canvass for a birthday gift for the president and asked him to turn it over to a Republican campaign fund. President Eisenhower celebrated his 64th birthday Thursday.

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