

THE GUARDIAN

EDITORIAL NOTES

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.

PREFERS TAVERNS TO JOINTS

Sir,—I have been looking over the statistics of the Liquor Commission and I find that besides all the shellac and shaving lotion that is being consumed in the Province there is an unbelievable amount of illegal liquor on the market. And besides all this we have to take into consideration the liquor being imported from Nova Scotia and New Brunswick. What the Temperance Commission is doing to stop such traffic besides a lot of talking I haven't been able to find out.

I have visited several Provinces in Canada but never have I seen so many drunks in the streets as I have in Charlottetown and Summerside. I also have visited several villages in the Province where I have obtained liquor very easily. In the village of North Rustico in particular I was given a choice of five places. In Tignish there were six. I cannot hazard to guess how many there are in Charlottetown. And yet our Temperance Act does not permit these outlets. And it seems strange to me that on the Island, where there is prohibition, there are so many bootlegging joints per village in comparison with other Provinces such as Ontario and Quebec which have but one or two taverns per village and where there is no prohibition. Mark Twain once said that the number of old maids controlled the number of cats. They could have said that they control liquor houses too. Or maybe they control the Liberal government being as it seems to be in favor of the repatriation of wealth.

One way to close all these bootlegging joints is to have licensed liquor houses where liquor is cheaper and better than what the bootleggers sell.

I am, Sir, etc. JAMES MacRAE. Halifax, N. S.

The Poet's Corner

OPUS 50

The piano lives in a dusk Where rich amber lights Quiver obscurely. It exists only at twilight, And somewhere afar In the depths of a tropic forest The sun is now setting, and the Phoenix locks Mysteriously toward the gold.

I think I must have been born in such a forest, Or in the tangle of a Chinese screen.

There is indigo in this music; This dusk is filled with amber lights; Through the tangled evening of heavy flower-scents Come footfalls That surely I can almost remember.

—Anne Knish

Old Charlottetown

(And P. E. I.)

"HONI SOIT ..."

"Found, between the Market House and Mr. Johnston's, a lady's grey worsted Queen's Garter. The owner may receive the same on application at the Private Secretary's Office, upon producing the fellow to it and paying the expenses of this advertisement." Prince Edward Island Register, Sept. 25, 1827.

Wordsworth

(Winnipeg Free Press)

The centenary of William Wordsworth's death has just been observed by the British people, or rather by that minute fragment of the public which is interested in poetry, with a most refreshing lack of solemnity. His contemporaries were quick to poke fun at him, for he wore the prophet's mantle, in truth, with an awkward posture and there is no reason why we should stiffen him into an institution.

De Quincy described his face as "certainly the noblest for intellectual effects that I have seen." Well, there were other opinions. Carlyle spoke of him as a "cold, hard, silent, practical man", with "stern blue eyes superior to men and circumstances" and his "immense head and great jaws like a crocodile, cast in a mould designed for prodigious work."

Emerson marked him as a "plain, elderly white-haired man, not prepossessing, who laid down the law on the subject of America, of which he knew little, and talked instead of listening," and whose vanity led him to recite his poems unasked to his visitor which made Emerson comment wryly: "he, the old Wordsworth, standing apart and reciting to me in the garden walk, like a schoolboy declaiming." Hazlitt said to Landor: "But you have seen a horse, I suppose? Well, Sir, if you have seen a horse, I mean his head, sir, you may say you have seen Wordsworth, Sir."

Yet this prosy man, whose talk of mountains would have aroused the anger of Dr. Johnson as it often aroused the wise mirth of Charles Lamb, could on occasion touch men's hearts to a vision of the great truths, which abide beyond our reach and give us the healing gift of peace. A hundred years, filled with wars and the fallen passivity of

The City street committee seems to have learned the elementary lesson that the most economical street is the one that remains the longest time for money expended.

The many young people from out of town, their parents, and members of the Women's Institutes will be greatly missed from our streets and homes after today, the conclusion of the greatest Musical Festival ever.

There is a curious tendency for Spring cleaning to be done earlier each year. The trend has a definite advantage from a man's point of view. The inside job is likely to be finished by the time it is possible to tackle outside ones.

It is easy to criticize U. N. secretary-general Trygve Lie for even attempting a peace mission to Moscow, but the Western world would hardly be forgiven for neglecting even remote chances for reaching an understanding with that country's rulers.

Montreal's taxing of purchases made anywhere by Montrealers amounts, as the Toronto Financial Post points out, to an attempt to shut off outside trade. We might add that so far as it applies to purchases outside the Province, it is very probably unconstitutional.

A group of six Fredericton high school students have been suspended and may be expelled following an unauthorized basketball game with Saint John juveniles. The group are alleged to have "skipped" classes in order to take part in the game. Among the six suspended students are the valedictorian and class president of the 1950 graduating class.

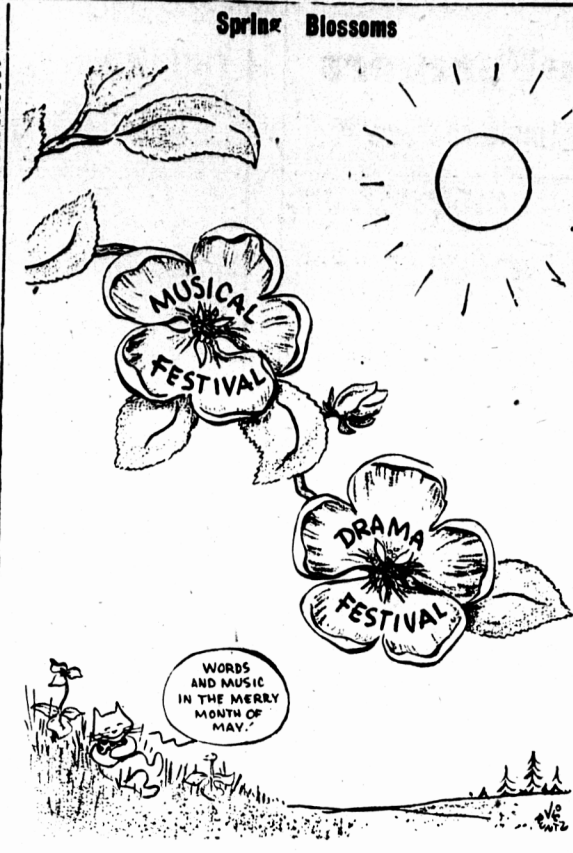
Churchill and Truman have one thing in common, insults from their opponents. Truman was recently called "the cleverest politician and the worst President ever to occupy the White House." Churchill, according to Defence Minister Shinwell, is "arrogant, mischievous, irresponsible and as tricky as a bag of monkeys."

The late Ivan Reddin was a popular figure here for many years before he went west. Both he and his wife belonged to old and popular families, and he himself was one of "the boys" in sport and pastimes before settling down to business. His father, the late Mr. D. O'M. Reddin, was for long one of the most popular druggists here; while his father-in-law, the late Dr. Stephen Jenkins, was in his day a most popular surgeon and medical doctor.

Mixtures of grass and alfalfa seed are available to Saskatchewan farmers at cost price under the province's 1950 forage crop program. A million pounds of seed were distributed under the 1949 program. Urging farmers to seed one acre in grass-alfalfa per head of cattle on the farm, Mr. Nollet, Minister of Agriculture, said an increase in forage crop acreage was necessary to meet present requirements of the province's livestock population and build up reserves for emergency years. Movement of hay was no longer economically sound because of high freight rates, so producers would have to take every means possible to grow their own.

Napoleon Bonaparte, the Stalin of the eighteenth century, died this date 1821. He had a great time while it lasted, trampling nations under his feet, and laying the foundation for an anti-Christ movement which had its repercussion long after his death. He was a master military strategist, and usually made his plans practically fool-proof, till the battle of Waterloo when he miscalculated the reserves Wellington had at his command. At one time, almost every country in Europe lived in daily dread of an invasion by Napoleon's "unconquered army and invincible navy", just as they were of Hitler's airplanes. Ultimately Napoleon met his fate, just as Hitler did, and which, more than probably, Stalin will.

Mr. Gardiner has announced that the Government is going to adopt a new farm marketing policy, which is supposed, according to rumours, to be the creation of compulsory, farmer-operated pools for various products, says The Letter-Review. The announcement was made by Mr. Gardiner as a fait accompli, without his having yet communicated his intentions to Parliament. Minister of Agriculture says that he has shown now that he can market butter very cheaply, the Government only losing 1/2c per lb. on its operations for a year, while private business would have wanted several cents per lb. spread. Private business might not be able to borrow money at less than 3%. Private business might not be able to use the whole staff of the Department of Agriculture, including a battalion of publicity agents, without paying for these services. It is much easier to do business when the taxpayers will accept the losses.



The Situation Before The Western Foreign Ministers

(By W. N. Ewer)

The meeting of the three Foreign Ministers in London is certainly being well prepared. The British, American and French "advance parties" of high officials and experts will have put in a fortnight's hard work before their chiefs meet. Which is very wise. For the subject matter of the meeting is really nothing less than a world situation.

The job of the working parties is to go over that whole wide field and select a few major problems or which the Ministers can concentrate. Some will be "major" because of their intrinsic importance, some because they are matters of immediate difficulty or divergence of opinion between the three countries. And some time has to be left for what one may call "new ideas" — like Mr. Bidault's suggestion of a High Atlantic Council or Mr. Truman's proposals for a joint international publicity campaign for democratic ideas.

But, of course, as wide and complex as the questions are which will come under review, they all centre round the one big problem of relations between the "two camps." When the Ministers talk about Germany they will talk about Russia. When they talk about the Japanese Peace Treaty they will talk about Russia. When they talk about atomic energy they will talk about Russia. It is hard to think of anything which can be discussed without Russia coming into it somehow.

For, when all is said and done, the dominant question is that of the "cold war". Is there any chance of ending it? If not, how is it to be waged so that without yielding to cold aggression we can avert the dangers of "the hot war"?

Of cardinal importance in any assessment of the situation and its possibilities is the assessment of the real intention of the Soviet Government. At the moment, Soviet propaganda harps incessantly on two themes: the need for peace and the possibility of peaceful co-existence (sometimes "peaceful competition") of the two systems. Does this indicate genuine desire, genuine willingness on the part of the Kremlin to reach a detente with the West, to call, at any rate, a truce in the cold war? Is there an opportunity which wise statesmanship could and would seize? It might be so. For Russia, as well as the West, must be finding the indefinite prolongation of the cold war both a costly and an anxious business. That is a possibility which will not be overlooked in the London talks.

But, unhappily, Soviet practice is in contrast to Soviet propaganda. The tone of Soviet diplomacy is consistently harsh, insolent and hostile—not the least the tone of men who would like to "make friends". There is no cessation of the provocative behaviour of the satellite Governments. There is something like an open threat of a new attempt to drive the Western Allies out of Berlin. And very different propaganda for internal consumption ceaselessly tries to arouse, the hatred of Western countries, of Western institutions and Western Governments as enemies of the "people's democracies", sending spies and saboteurs to wreck their economies, and plotting to "unleash a third world war" against them. This, too, is hardly consistent with the professed desire for a "peaceful co-existence."

Even more important is the fact that Russia continues to wage the cold war by every means in her power. The chosen method of the moment is that of Guerrilla tactics. That is not only so in South East Asia. The Communist parties of France and Italy are using a modified version of the same tactics. Their orders now are to use and provoke violence wherever possible.

kings and the swollen convulsive pangs of an age of anxiety, have come and gone. They have not touched the aboriginal sadness of his verse, its note of meditation, of beauty flashing free, and its voice or ordered freedom spacious as the sea. It is the mystery and reassurance of poetry, in whose temple "veiled Melancholy has her sovran shrine."

And—a sinister development—they are showing (as at one time in pre-Hitler Germany) a readiness to cooperate in violence with the reviving Fascism.

Now, the importance of this is that these are not tactics of a genuinely revolutionary party, seeking power. They run directly counter to all Lenin's teaching on revolutionary tactics. Their purpose is clearly simply to create trouble for the Western Governments, to impede economic recovery, to hamper the reorganization of national defenses. They have nothing to do with ideological Communism, still less with the welfare of the working classes. They are a form of partisan warfare—cold partisan warfare—intended to weaken those Governments and those countries which the Russians regard as their enemies.

It is hard to resist the conclusion that propaganda about peace and peaceful co-existence is no genuine expression of any genuine desire, but is rather a form of "psychological warfare," intended to create illusions, to confuse opinion and to divide counsels.

Here, then, is surely the kernel of the whole matter. All Western statesmen as all Western peoples would be glad to see the cold war ended. But the cold war can only end if Russia is prepared to cease waging it. And that, so far, she gives not the least sign. She is waging it as vigorously and unscrupulously as ever.

Dean Acheson hit the nail on the head the other day. "There can" he said "be no agreement, there can be no approach to agreement unless one idea is done away with. That is the idea of aggression and that word aggression includes not only military attack but propaganda warfare and secret undermining of free countries from within."

NEW BARRIERS IN BERLIN

BERLIN, May 4 — (AP) — East Germany's Communist rulers raised new barriers today against trade with Allied-occupied West Berlin. They established a ring of police control points charged with inspecting all cargoes and even personal luggage carried into the city from the surrounding Soviet occupation zone.

Only German trade and travel was affected. The purpose, the East-German authorities said, was to halt "unlicensed trade" and smuggling of commodities out of the Soviet zone.

FORMER RUSSIAN EMPIRE

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Notes By The Way —

Outside the United Kingdom there are now four Socialist Governments—in Denmark, Finland, Norway and Sweden. But none of them, in face of the present world situation, is now extending nationalization. They aim at a Welfare State but are leaving ordinary industry enterprise free to produce the resources required to support it. In extending nationalization as it is now doing the Labor Government is alone in Western Europe, in the Commonwealth, in the Prime Minister moved the closure on the ground that the debate was harmful to the office of the Governor General and to the House, and this was carried on a vote of 60 to 43. This is the precise kind of danger which always rendered possible by the appointment as representative of the Crown of a person who has been active in political conflicts in the country where he is to serve — Toronto Saturday Night.

A firm believer in personal economy the well-known Hearst editor, Walter Howey, a salesman once endeavored to interest Howey in a hearing aid which sold for several hundred dollars. "Oh, I can get along with something much cheaper than that," the editor told him. "You just wait here a minute, and I'll show you." Howey disappeared into the inner recesses of his private office and a few moments later reappeared with a tiny wire running from his vest pocket to his ear. "This," he proclaimed, "can be purchased for a few cents." "That!" the salesman hooted. "How can a little scrap of wire help you to hear?" Howey laughed. "When people see this," he rejoined, "they will talk louder." — Wall Street Journal.

A dinner has been given in Peking for "British advisers to the Chinese Information Bureau of the Press Administration, Mr. and Mrs. Springhall, Mr. Alan Winnington and Mr. Michael Shapiro." Political innocents should perhaps be told that these "advisers" come neither from the Foreign Office nor from the British Council. Mr. Springhall was the national organizer of the British Communist Party until he got seven years in 1943 for breaches of the Secrets Act. Some of his early years were spent in the Red Navy. It is believed he was the man who returned from Moscow late in 1939 with the directive which, overnight, reversed the British Communist Party's attitude to the war. We may doubt if all these dinner-guests are in China to tell Mao Tse-tung how to run newspapers. — London Observer.

Canadians who are pushing for the appointment of a native Governor General would do well to observe carefully the way in which such an appointment is working out in Australia. There was nearly an hour of acrimonious debate in the Canberra House of Representatives at the end of last month, on a question asked from the Labor benches, about the action of the Speaker, Mr. A. G. Cameron, in declining the hospitality of the Governor General, Mr. McKell. In 1940 Mr. McKell was leader of the New South Wales Labor Party, and uttered some expressions about the Federal Country Party, which the latter called "the most personal attack I have ever been subjected to in my life." Mr. Cameron wrote to the Governor General, intimating that he did not desire to accept the hospitality of one who presumably still held the same view about the Commonwealth, in the Governor General did not reply whole of the free world. — Sir Arthur Salter in the Manchester Guardian.

Tourists this year will demand more for their money than ever before, according to Hon. Harold Connolly, Nova Scotia Minister of Trade and Industry. That is easy to believe, for the same principle is guiding many of us. We are shopping for goods and services today; we are watching our pennies. And with a greater variety offering we can afford to be more choosy. So can the tourist. The free spending of the first few years after the war is ended. Tourists are shopping for vacations and looking for values—which is certainly their right. This is not mere academic speculation, although it is a thesis we could accept, but a statement of fact based on analyses of tourist spending in this Province in 1947, 1948 and 1949. The analyses show that although we are attracting more tourists, they are spending less on the average. And the same thing is generally true in other parts of North America. It does not mean disaster. It might even prove a good thing for our tourist business. When customers are demanding and selective, we are put on our mettle to provide good services. And when we do that, we lay solid foundations for a lasting business. To operate in a slipshod manner, just because people were spending freely, would be to jeopardize our future economy for the sake of an easy dollar or two today. Much better prove ourselves good hosts, in the interests of economy and of self-respect. Halifax Chronicle-Herald.

The Age-Old Story

To him that ordereth his conversation aright will show the salvation of God.

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