

THE GUARDIAN

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CHARLOTTETOWN, WEDNESDAY, JAN. 21, 1953

An Encouraging Start

There is evidently great interest in the proposal to obtain a marine slip for Charlottetown and last night's meeting, called by the employees of Bruce Stewart and Company, Ltd., was well attended and unanimous in promising support and co-operation. The next meeting will seek to obtain full representation and select a committee to work on the project. As pointed out by more than one speaker last night, this move is of Province-wide concern. Premier Jones has pledged the full support of his Government, and Mr. Bell that of the Opposition.

In dealing with the subject recently we mentioned the advantage of having facilities here for repair of the Wood Islands ferries, and for underwater jobs on other craft as well. The Premier has supplied another good argument. There is no doubt but that the dragger fishery will grow to large proportions in this Province and a great deal of work will be required to service these boats. Why should they go elsewhere to be reconditioned? We have good workmen, and the more Island men we can keep at home the better it will be for all concerned.

This project is long over-due. The necessity is now greater than ever, and presents a challenge to the co-ordinated effort, zeal and initiative of all our citizens.

Mr. Truman's Legacy

It is too often forgotten, in the bitterness of domestic politics and in Mr. Truman's occasional human indiscretions, says the Winnipeg Free Press, that under his leadership as President of the United States some of the largest decisions of the present era were taken, and taken with supreme courage. The Truman Doctrine, which saved Greece and barred the gates of the Mediterranean to Communism; the Marshall Plan, which revived Europe and probably saved it from chaos; the North Atlantic Treaty which united the West at a moment of desperate danger; the defence of Korea, which for the first time united peace-loving states in collective security—these are all the work of Mr. Truman's Government. And the paramount decision ever taken by any President, was made by Mr. Truman alone.

Mr. Churchill once said that, but for the atomic bomb in the hands of the United States, Russia would have attacked Britain long ago. It is certainly true today that if Russia is ready to negotiate at all it is impressed only by the measures of rearmament and, above all, by the allied unity and determination achieved under Mr. Truman's leadership of the free world.

"The free peoples should pause to consider the miracle wrought by the United States in that period," says the Free Press. "History shows no parallel to the revolution in the United States' thinking, its transformation from an established isolationist policy into the leadership of free peoples everywhere, to the generosity, intelligence and daring of the Marshall Plan, or to the decision, in time of peace, to fight for a remote peninsula on the far side of the Pacific.

"The world is too inclined to over-emphasize the occasional mistakes inevitable in such a gigantic process and the partisan wrangles which sometimes accompany it. The success of the almost impossible project undertaken by Mr. Roosevelt and carried through by Mr. Truman is often under-emphasized. History, free of temporary distractions, will pronounce this one of the greatest achievements on the human record. As the Truman era ends and the Eisenhower era begins all free men should remember that the will, the treasure and the blood of the American people have lately stood and still stand between them and ruin. Happily the inheritance thus built will be safe in General Eisenhower's hands."

Welcome Improvement

Winter life on Canadian farms nowadays is a far cry from the lonely existence endured by pioneer settlers, notes an exchange. Thanks to modern science and industry, rural dwellers can keep in touch with each other almost as well when snow covers the countryside as during the spring, summer and autumn. They probably have more fun in winter than in the other sea-

sons because the demands of farm tasks are less urgent.

In the old days, which old-timers insist had colder weather and deeper snowfalls than recent winters, a blizzard could paralyze a district for days and sometimes weeks. Farms and communities were cut off from each other until teams of horses struggled through the drifts to break the roads.

Farm dwellers in those times lived in dread of illness or other emergency striking at such a period of isolation. All too often, extra strains and stresses arising from the storm itself produced situations in which there was need for a doctor—who sometimes could not get through the drifted roads and the buffeting of the storm in time.

Winter still packs a terrific bad-weather punch, and occasionally there are tie-ups in transportation and communication services. But for communities on highways at least, conditions have improved almost beyond belief in recent years.

EDITORIAL NOTES

The proposal to abolish Summerside's Water and Sewerage Commission has much to commend it. The Commissioners have done a good job but it is a decided disadvantage.

Next week will see the end of January and an Island seed catalogue is being advertised. It is possible to feel that winter is practically over before it is well begun.

The big job of changing Charlottetown telephones over to the dial system is close to completion. The growth of the Provincial capital in recent years has pushed the present system close to capacity. With a brand new dial exchange Charlottetown is ready for continued expansion.

Canada's biggest army camp-to-be is as yet nameless. It is the Army Training Area, New Brunswick, usually referred to as A. T. A. N. B., a poor expression beside Shilo, Petawawa and the others. Perhaps the initials, with the addition of Canadian, could be rendered, "Catanby."

Ministers and others depressed by addressing seemingly unconscious ears may take heart from the results of reading to unconscious patients in Iowa. When they regain consciousness patients remember parts of the story and ask for the "library lady."

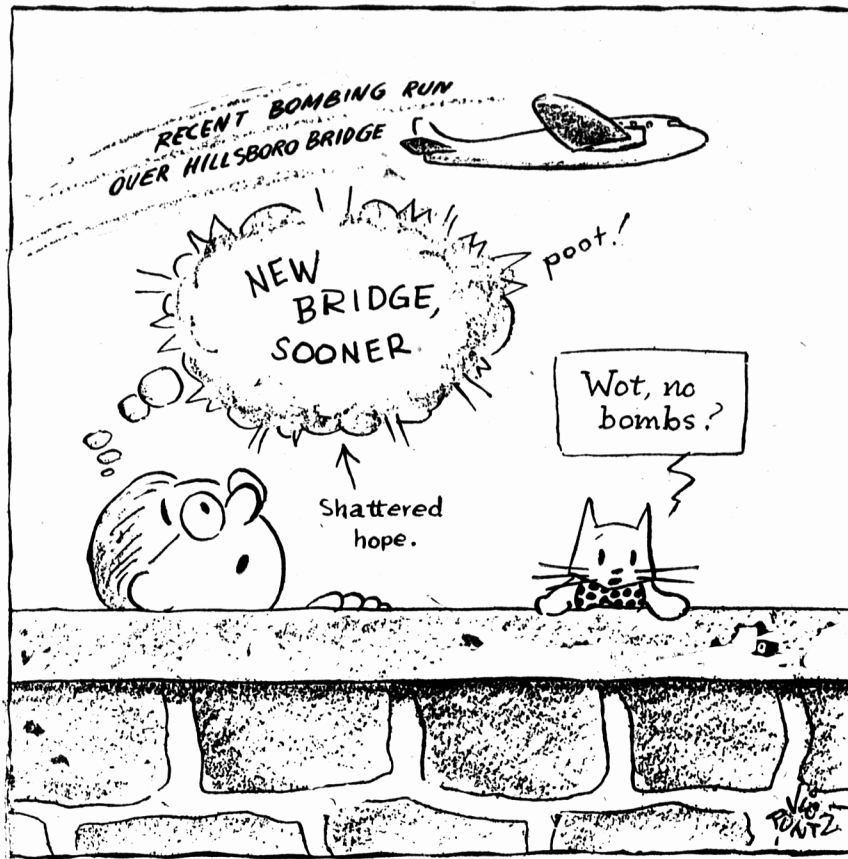
The Lethbridge Experimental Station has calculated from Canada's population statistics that there are 1,000 new people to feed, clothe and house in Canada every day. This is because about 1,000 new Canadians are born daily while 340 die and 400 new immigrants reach this country. These figures, the station suggests, mean that Canadians will eat about 42,000 more 500-pound beef carcasses this year than in 1952.

Henry Howard, Earl of Surrey, English poet, died this date 1547. He accompanied his father on various campaigns but was scarcely notable as a soldier. As a poet he substituted for the sonnet of the Italian model the less elaborate and easier English form which Shakespeare afterwards adopted. His chief claim to fame is that he introduced blank verse, of five iambic feet, into English in his translation of parts of the Aeneid, a form which became the metre of epic and drama.

In Prague, the story goes, a Czech official came upon President Klement Gottwald carrying an open umbrella on a lovely summer day. "Why the umbrella?", the friend asked in amazement. "Haven't you heard?", Gottwald replied, "It's raining in Moscow." This is but one of several stories recorded in The Saturday Review of Literature in a penetrating and timely article entitled "Wit As A Weapon". Today, says the Saturday Review, millions behind the Iron Curtain are finding that humour is one of the few weapons still available in the struggle between freedom and oppression.

A world plowing match—the first—will be held in Canada in October, in conjunction with the international plowing match conducted by the Ontario Plowmen's Association. It is expected that Canada, Sweden, Finland, Norway, West Germany, Eire, and Britain (England, Wales and Scotland), will compete, with possible entries from Belgium, France and the United States. Decision to hold this first world match, which will be held in Eire in 1954, Sweden in 1955 and Great Britain in 1956, was taken at an international conference held at Falkirk, Scotland. Each nation will send three-man teams consisting of a horse plowman, a tractor plowman and a coach.

Not A Chance!



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.

SCIENCE AND FAITH

Sir.—Skepticism is a lost cause, a lost cause intellectually, socially and spiritually. Certainly it can no longer command a hearing among scientists. Aldous Huxley is a member of a scientific family and a devout skeptic for years has now developed a vital religious faith. He illustrates the trend of scientific thought, the last quarter of a century. None of the great scientists of today can be ranked among the skeptics. Even Bertrand Russell has begun to profess something like faith in God and in man.

This change has come about through the discoveries of science itself: twenty-five years ago scientists believed they had come to the hard core of ultimate being, the atom, indivisible and indestructible, as they thought. Then they discovered new and strange facts about the atom that upset all their former conclusions. The atom is not a solid body. It can be broken up and contains startling powers.

A reliable scientist has declared: "In all the reaches of our telescopes and microscopes there is nowhere discoverable the slightest trace of any friend behind phenomena. Any God who cares, any principle that guarantees man's success in his struggle and endeavours. So far as the eye of science can see man is alone, abandoned in a universe in which his very appearance is a miracle."

Twenty-five years ago that was the view generally held by scientists. Today the case is different. We can call this faith in God. They would not call it that. It is faith in a Great First Cause, that man is not adrift on a pitiless sea of chance, bound for nowhere. The mechanistic interpretation of the world and of man has been exploded.

There is a difference between scientific and Christian faith. Many people have what may be called faith in a great First Great Cause, i.e., a scientific faith. They will tell you to a man: "I believe there is a God and I believe He has laid down laws for man's guidance," but as far as this idea is having any influence on their lives there is no evidence.

That is, there is abroad in the world and in the Church what can be called practical atheism. They acknowledge God in their speech but deny him in their conduct. Or as Paul puts it: "They profess that they know God but in works they deny Him." Jesus puts it better in His question: "Why call ye me, Lord, Lord and do not the things which I say?"

If the total membership of the Church were out-and-out believers, loyal to Jesus in His work, how strong the Church would be. How soon would the impact of her life be felt in the world at large! Then God could work.

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

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No Longer A Mystery

(Ottawa Citizen)

The story is told that a party of newspapermen who were recently shown "NRX", the big reactor at the Chalk River nuclear fission research center, demonstrated awe when brought into the presence of The Great Mystery. To the scientists present, this unconsciously reverent attitude was amusing.

Yet the newsmen were not wholly to blame for their awed approach toward a scientific process that is almost as common today, and no more mysterious than the manufacture of synthetic rubber. Largely to blame is the government's concept of secrecy with respect to nuclear fission.

Before World War II, nuclear fission research was carried on openly, and commanded little interest except among scientists. Pioneers like Albert Einstein and Lord Rutherford would not have dreamt of keeping their conclusions secret. When it became evident that nuclear fission could be used for military purposes, the pendulum swung wholly the other way.

Everything done in this field was for a time subject to strict security measures. Mainly this was to prevent Germany (not Russia, at that time) from obtaining knowledge useful in the development of atomic weapons. Even the search for uranium by independent prospectors was forbidden in Canada.

When Deep River was established after the war as Chalk River's dormitory, the fact was for a time kept a secret. Small wonder that the public still holds all nuclear fission research in awe.

Yet much of this research has little more direct military significance than the development of sawfly-resistant wheat. And gradually, the cloak of mystery is being removed. Geiger counters can be bought anywhere. McGill University has organized a course in nuclear engineering, similar to that at Massachusetts Institute of Technology, where problems involved in the application of nuclear fission to industry and allied fields will be studied. Secrecy here will, of course, be virtually impossible.

In Europe, 11 countries have now agreed to set up an international nuclear fission research center in Geneva. The nations concerned are Britain, Belgium, Denmark, France, Holland, Italy, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland, West Germany and Yugoslavia. This sensible pooling of scientific brains and material resources will make it difficult to keep nuclear fission research a secret.

In Canada, the tendency now, in agreement with the United States and Britain, is to release as much information as possible while not endangering the West

The Poet's Corner

OUTPORT WINTER SCENES

The ox moves by Hauling a load of birch; His back could bear the sky, His shoulders lift a church.

Chalk-white the load, With scars of sooty black; Along the icy road A curl of bark blows back.

An old man sits Upon the creaking sleigh, Beating his worn red mitts To keep the frost away.

—Lenore A. Pratt, in the Montreal Star.

VOLCANIC CHAIN

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AGENTS THROUGHOUT THE PROVINCE

Notes By The Way

Bachelors of the Muka tribe in Africa are forced to support a huge tree trunk on their shoulders for 24 hours before their marriage, to prepare them for the burdens of matrimony. The idea seems sound, but is 24 hours long enough? — Cornwall Standard-Freeholder.

While northerners complain of the lack of snow and subzero temperatures in winter, Torontonians exclaim with delight over the lack of snow — 28 inches less than average in 1952. Typical Toronto weather is dampness and thunderstorms in the summer, slush and raw cold in the winter, just plain miserable in between times. — Sudbury Daily Star.

Robert Schuman symbolizes a living ideal — European union. His greatness lay in his grasp of this ideal's value and in the devotion, intelligence and courage with which he championed it. Not only France but the whole democratic world owes him a tribute of thanks and admiration. — New York Times.

Old Charlottetown

(And P. E. I.)

SUPREME COURT BUILDINGS

House of Assembly, March 16, 1832: "A motion being made, that the bill for establishing the new place for holding the Supreme Court in King's and Prince Counties be now committed to a committee of the whole House. Mr. Cooper moved, in amendment, that the bill be read 'this day three months'."

"He felt in duty bound to his constituents to oppose this bill. The expenses attending the establishment of Circuit Courts will require for the Chief Justice, Attorney General, Clerk of the Crown, Sheriff, Jailor, and other incidental expenses, a tax of at least \$300 a year, for the support of each Court. The attendance of seventy-two Jurors twice in the year, will be a further tax of another \$300 a year, for the Counties. And Georgetown is more convenient to Charlottetown, than a greater portion of King's County is to Georgetown, and consequently the inhabitants near Georgetown have less cause for complaint than the greater part of King's County will have, if a Court is erected in Georgetown; besides the traps that will in time be laid for the unwary in the shape of Public Houses and Attorneys' Offices, and the power and influence it will give to these kidnappers, will give to a point of land now of little value, by taxes, bills of sale, and mortgages, the possession of a great part of the property of the county; and the liberties of the people will then fall into the hands of men of that description, who are clothed and fed by the simplicity and loose cash of the industrious."

Mr. Cooper's amendment was negated on a division of 12 to 4.

The Age-Old Story

I know that, whatsoever God doeth, it shall be for ever: nothing can be put to it, nor anything taken from it; and God doeth it, that men should fear before him. That which hath been is now; and that which is to be hath already been; and God rethreth that which is past.

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