

THE GUARDIAN

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CIRCULATION "Covers Prince Edward Island like the dew" "The strongest memory is weaker than the weakest ink"

CHARLOTTETOWN WEDNESDAY, NOV. 18, 1953

The White Case

Canadians look with some amazement at the developments in the campaign of the House of Representatives Committee on Un-American Activities. It is interesting to speculate on what the situation would be if the episode were to occur in this country.

There is the difficulty that a President occupies the position roughly of a combined Governor-General and Prime Minister. There is no doctrine of "separation of powers" entrenched in the Canadian constitution and that is the point which Mr. Truman seems to be relying on most heavily in declining to admit the right of a House committee to subpoena him.

If a committee of the House of Commons, investigating say uncultural activity, were to subpoena a former Governor-General and Prime Minister it seems likely that the unfortunate politician would be obliged to appear or be reported to the House. An order would immediately be made for his attendance and if he still refused, he might be "ordered to be sent for in custody of the Sergeant-at-Arms."

In the case of the former Governor-General, however, things would take quite another turn. The executive government is vested in the Queen and is exercised in her name by the Governor-General. The Queen is answerable to no one and the Governor-General is answerable only to the Queen. The task of the Prime Minister is to assume responsibility for royal and vice-regal acts. If he is not prepared to do so he must resign.

It would seem then that the former Governor-General can tell the committee to call his Prime Minister or Prime Ministers if there were more than one during the period in question. The Prime Minister called out of retirement would then have to answer for both.

Churchill's Confidence

Sir Winston Churchill's statement in the British House of Commons, that he thought the danger of another war had "diminished or at least become more remote" because of changes inside Russia, will relieve and encourage people around the world. Other men, notes the Edmonton Journal, have said much the same thing in recent months, but none speak with the same authority as Churchill. On his record as a prophet of danger before 1939 and in the early years of the cold war, he is the last man who could be accused of crying peace when there is no peace. His sources of information about happenings behind the iron curtain must also be at least as good as those of any other leader in the West. Nor would he commit himself so boldly in the House of Commons if he did not feel full confidence in his estimate of the situation.

The British Prime Minister appears to endorse a theory which has been put forward recently by a number of British experts on Russia, particularly Isaac Deutscher, the biographer of Stalin. This is to the effect that the policy of industrialization which Stalin pushed through at such hideous cost has produced a profound social change inside the Soviet Union: It has multiplied the urban population, created a large class of scientifically trained technicians and spread at least a certain amount of literacy among the masses of the people. In this modernized Russia, according to the theory, the savage and arbitrary tyranny of Stalin was growing increasingly out of place. Therefore the tyrant's successors would find themselves under a growing pressure by the people for a relaxation of the system and for more bearable living conditions. This in turn would tend to put a curb on armament production and war preparations, and discipline the rulers for further serious trouble with the West. Events since Malenkov's succession have tended to confirm this theory, which was first enunciated by Mr. Deutscher and others before Stalin's death. Churchill evidently feels that it can now be accepted—with some caution—as a safe guide for British policy.

Nuclear Power

Plans to generate electrical energy from nuclear fission are moving forward at an accelerated pace in Britain and the United States. The progress, notes the Ottawa Citizen, will of course benefit Canada, for this country's resources have been too

meager to allow for rapid atomic development. Especially useful will be the decision of the Atomic Energy Commission in the U. S. to exchange information on a more extensive basis. Mr. Howe, the Minister of Trade and Commerce, has pointed out that the AEC's new policy will help Canada to by-pass some of the experimental work the country's scientists would have had to perform before production of electrical power from nuclear fission could be undertaken.

The British have already picked a site at Caithness, Scotland, where a generating plant will be built to supply northern industries with power derived from atomic energy. A corporation, set up on commercial lines, will take the development out of the hands of a government department. The Caithness plant is to be staffed by 1,200 scientists and technicians, and rapid progress is expected.

The Americans, too, are far advanced. They built their first pilot plant in December, 1951, with an experimental reactor that generated enough power to run a few motors and to light one or two buildings. They have put up a second station since then, while a recently-completed submarine, powered by nuclear fission, might be regarded as a third. Washington's atomic energy commission believes the U. S. should have its first commercial plant by 1957.

This would leave Canada well to the rear were it not now for the prospect of obtaining a greater share of information. A relative shortage of trained technical men has been a constant hindrance to Canadian progress in atomic energy studies. At Chalk River, the staff has been busy getting the reactor NRX into operation following the accident last winter. Construction is still proceeding on the reactor, NRU, designed to help find answers to problems arising from the conversion of nuclear fission into electrical power. If Canada is to have any hope of keeping pace with Britain and the U. S., help from these two countries seems essential.

EDITORIAL NOTES

The Island may not be represented by swine entries at the Royal Winter Fair but at any rate our end is being kept up by dairy and poultry exhibitors.

Accidents are increasing in construction work and the Federal government has issued a 48-page code of safety measures in an attempt to halt the rising accident rate. It will form part of the national building code which is intended to serve as a guide for municipalities in drafting their own codes.

The vice-premier of France has predicted that a European army will be in existence within a year and that his country will eventually join a United States of Europe. If France is actually ready for these developments there seems to be an excellent chance of their becoming accomplished facts.

A robot city guide system which was developed in Norway has been extended to the United States. The idea is to install a number of untended information booths at strategic points. Included is a map with key letters and numbers for quick location; a directory; a street directory; and a list of events that are currently taking place.

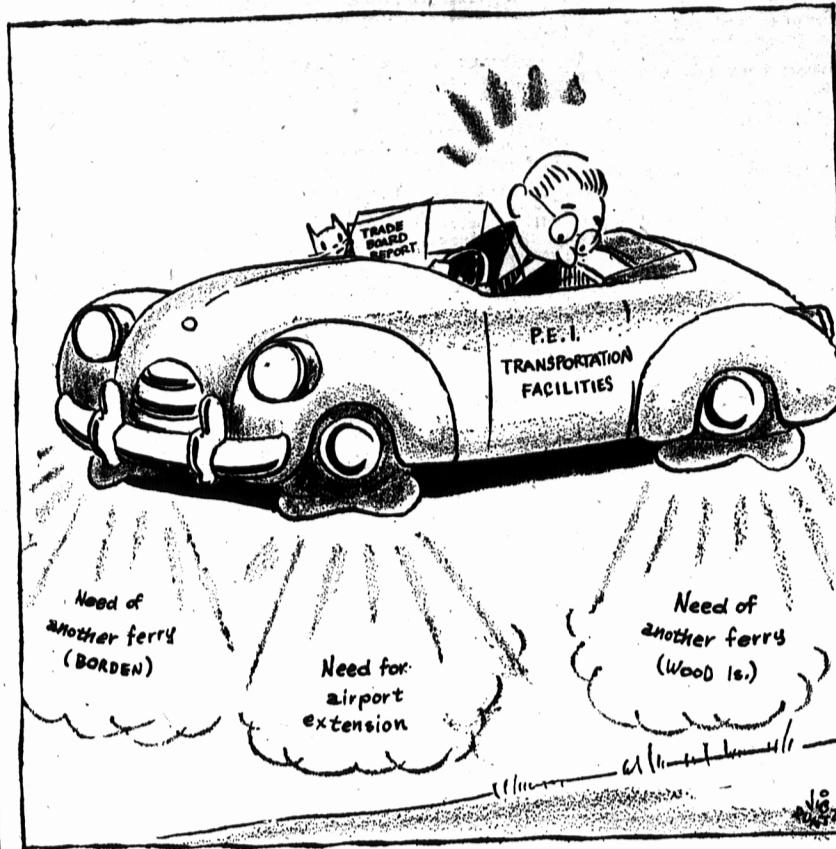
"The vital importance of effective methods of joint defence, especially in the light of evidence of increasing ability for direct attack on both countries by weapons of great destructive power", was completely agreed upon by the President and Prime Minister. Methods and responsibilities are presumably under continual study.

Presumably our immigration representatives will direct to this Province farm workers who have had experience in somewhat similar conditions. That is all to the good but it would also be a decided advantage if skilled workmen capable of establishing a local industry could be persuaded to come in as an organized group.

A good many people think of the Canadian Association of Consumers as being an agency to which to bring their complaints and which will watch over their interests. Another and even more important aspect was emphasized by the visiting national president—that of educating the consumer to take an efficient part in the marketing process.

Stanhope Alexander Forbes, Irish painter, was born this date 1857. His chief characteristic was faithfulness to the scene in pictures of everyday life, and this with its reaction from romanticism became the dominant feature of the Newlyn school of painters in Cornwall, of which he was the chief representative. His paintings include, "Forging the Anchor", "The Smithy" and "The New Call."

Could Do With A Little Fixing



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.

THINGS PURE AND LOVELY

Sir,—It may be a mistake to tell children about things sordid, cruel and unclean that are in the world. But we that are older should be able to use "strong meat", being "no longer babes". The school books used in this Province contained material in the '70's and '80's from the pen of English writers of the 19th century. Those who used the "Royal Readers", can now if living remember the lesson—"The man who sings at his work", which told how much more he could do and how much better he would do other complimentary things. There was the lesson in the Fifth Reader which began—Sweet Auburn—loveliest village of the plain—where Health and plenty cheer the laboring swain," a long poem depicting English rural life. It told the beauties of the countryside as seen from the village church with everything that was wholesome and good. The Crimean War had been over for 20 years and the nursing profession and its founder—Florence Nightingale—had touched sympathetic hearts. We learned through other medium that there was enough alcoholic liquors drank in England in one year to float the British navy. Still no one was compelled to drink. Slavery no longer existed in Britain or its Dominions. Prison reform had had a history of 100 years.

But this was the nineteenth century. Of course everything was not perfect, for General Booth was then writing the book—"In Darkest England", picturing the condition of those in large city slums who were victims of the drink habit. To find the darkest England we must go back to the first half of the 18th century when the leading people in church and state believed that God fashioned the estate of the poor man, that he was born to be poor, that he should be humble and respectful to "his betters". He not able to pay his debts he was thrown into prison to suffer in filth, cold, hunger and vermin. The lives of children were not regarded. If half of the number in an orphanage died no one worried about it. Hanging was the penalty for more than 60 different offences. Children as young as 10 years, were hanged for petty theft, if more than one shilling. In the realm of sport, the people then knew nothing of football or cricket. The popular recreations were left hanging for public executions. In some cases corpses were left hanging for days to warn other potential "criminals". Moral filth went to the limit on the stage, in literature and in public parades.

A man getting into debt at the gin shop and to escape a prison term would go against his will to "man" a slave ship. Slaves in the hold of ships would actually die of thirst on the voyage as well as from other causes. We could have said that in the sport of horse racing it was a contest of endurance, or drive the animal till he fell. Torture of animals was every day sport. Women took training in pugilism and fought in the ring.

A social condition like this was the result of spiritual death in church and nation. The body without the spirit is dead. It appears as though the efforts of Wilberforce in attacking the slave trade, Elizabeth Fry and John Howard in prison reform would have been in vain had not a priest of the Established Church started a movement that found the soul of the nation. The God he worshipped and offered the people was the Father God that Jesus revealed when the world became flesh and dwelt among us. John Wesley in his fifty eight years of work travelled an estimated 120,000 miles on horseback

Britain's View On China

(London, Eng., Economist)

The divergence between British and American policies towards China is at present the most serious gap in the political defenses of the free world. Because in this matter the British and American points of view are so far apart, there is an obvious opportunity for Communist diplomacy to drive in a wedge.

In its simplest terms the contrast may be stated by saying that America wants a tougher policy towards Communist China than Britain is willing to pursue. It would nevertheless be misleading to put the matter in this way without qualification, for toughness in international relations is not merely a question of making defiant gestures or angrily refusing to speak to an opponent. . . . Britain, indeed, is no less concerned than America to contain and restrain the new regime in China from aggressive expansion. In relation to South-East Asia, Britain has even more grounds for concern than America, for large numbers of Chinese are under British administration in Hong-kong and Malaya and these territories are far more accessible to Chinese Communist attack than are the Philippines or Okinawa. The difference of opinion, therefore, is about the methods to be adopted for resistance, not about the desirability of resisting.

Americans, whose awareness of the malevolence of the Peking regime has been sharpened by the experience of a war in which they have had thirty-five times as many soldiers killed as the British, are inclined to take up an attitude of uncompromising antagonism; they claim that with such a regime only toughness pays. The British criticism of this line is that in fact it is not tough at all; real toughness might or might not pay, but in any case it is no longer being advocated. There was a case for the MacArthur policy towards China, but was rejected by the American Government, not under British pressure but, as General Bradley has made clear in his recently published memoirs, on the advice of the American Chiefs of Staff.

Having decided, rightly or wrongly, not to attempt direct offensive operations against Communist China, the logical sequel to reach the poor and discouraged in the field, the cemetery or the mouth of the coal pit. His message brought assistance to the soul and besides the giving of their means the standard of living quickly improved. Is there any danger of us in this twentieth century of slumping back into the Godlessness of the eighteenth.

I am, Sir, etc. A.R.H. MacKENZIE. Kensington, P.E.I.

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Notes By The Way

The psychiatrists and psychologists are undoubtedly correct in ascribing maladjustments to childhood. Those who never had any childhood have no maladjustments.—Kingston Whig-Standard.

If a Canadian would offer any advice to the Australians, in connection with their plans (for the royal visit) it would be to say that formalities which are dominated by officialdom should be kept to a minimum. Let the people of Australia, as many as possible, see their Queen. Don't eliminate the whistle-stops.—Toronto Telegram.

There can be no doubt that run-of-the-mill morals in this mid-century era have greatly declined from the standards of 100 years ago. Truthfulness, honesty, trustworthiness, good faith in small matters, dependability—the words themselves seem a little dog-eared, even faintly ludicrous. They are not dead, of course, else mankind itself would be beyond saving. But they are slightly passe, out of fashion, as the durable wool fabrics of an earlier age have been given place to less dependable synthetics.—Victoria Times.

Canada has travelled a long way on the road to penal reform but there is still much to be accomplished. Far too many Canadians are sentenced to prison terms who could be saved (this stigma of a probation system similar to those now in force in several enlightened countries. There is also need for continuity of treatment from the time an offender is arrested until finally released from supervision and also for closer coordination among the actual treatment services of federal and provincial agencies.—Winnipeg Tribune.

One of the least excusable forms of laziness is slovenly English, either written or spoken. In these days when education is provided for every one, there can be no excuse for the flagrant liberties that are taken with the English language. One of the most common is the use of two negatives in the same sentence, such as: "I don't have no . . ." which obviously means the opposite of what is intended. English is a democratic language. For centuries it has given hospitality to words which first knocked at its door with very poor credentials. Dr. Samuel Johnson, the great lexicographer, detested the word "mob", meaning an unruly crowd, which he considered vulgar. But the fulminations of the great doctor were not effective in preventing the word being admitted to the language. The Americans have been responsible for the invention of innumerable words, many of which are terse and apt, but cannot yet be called "good English." Some of these words enjoyed a passing popularity; others, because of their peculiar aptness, or because they seemed to fill a tiny gap in meaning, came to stay. Many of these should still be regarded with suspicion.—From an editorial for young people, Hamilton Spectator.

The Poet's Corner

FARM AUCTION The handbills have been posted several weeks; All is in readiness. The day breaks clear. The neighboring farmers gather on the lot That has been set aside to hold the stock And odds and ends of items, farm machines. The plows and tractor, and an old combine All, newly painted. Furniture has been Lined up beside the fence. The auctioneer And clerk of sale arrive ahead of time To work out details and survey the crowd. The owner is retiring, after years Of dawn to darkness labor on the farm. There is a vague uncertainty about His attitude on this his final day Of stewardship. He's half a mind to stay! —Billy B. Cooper in The Christian Science Monitor.

The Age Old Story

Happy is he that hath the God of Jacob for his help, whose hope is in the Lord his God.

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