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CIRCULATION
"Covers Prince Edward Island like the dew"

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

CHARLOTTETOWN WEDNESDAY, AUG. 26, 1953

Good News From Britain

Although it has made few headlines, Britain's remarkable economic recovery is one of the great underlying facts of the world situation. The first thing the visitor to Britain notices, writes a London correspondent, is a general brightness and cheerfulness, in sharp contrast to the dimness of life which lasted for eight years after the war ended. This first impression is fully confirmed by further inquiry.

Unemployment, which was beginning to worry the government seriously a year ago, is now virtually non-existant. Profits are good, and prosperity general. The crucial gold and dollar reserve, which is watched by British officials with all the anxiety of a mother watching the thermometer of a sick child, is up almost three-quarters of a billion dollars over a year ago. The production index, which turned ominously downward in 1952, has turned up again. Moreover, there is a solid respect for the value of the pound sterling which has not existed for a long time. Internally, inflation has been almost stopped, and the pound is holding its own steadily on the world markets.

All these pleasant facts are admitted by the British leaders and their economic experts with an almost agonized reluctance, as though merely to mention them were to invite disaster. The British are downright superstitious about their economic situation, and especially in all odd-numbered years. The great post-war British economic crisis occurred in 1947, 1949 and 1951—and 1953 has not yet run its course, as the gloomier experts like to point out.

The current remarkable recovery is, moreover, in part a matter of sheer good luck, as Chancellor of the Exchequer R. A. Butler (whose political stock has been rising steadily with the British boom) freely admits. The terms of trade began some months ago to turn in Britain's favor—the prices of raw materials which Britain imports have fallen while the prices of the manufactured goods Britain exports have held steady.

U. S. Farm Experimentation

The work achieved by Dominion Government Experimental Farms in this Province and throughout Canada has its counterpart in the Federal Experimental Farms in all the forty-eight states of the neighboring Republic. According to the National Geographic Magazine, which devotes a striking article to this subject, the peak of efficiency equalled by American agriculture at the present time is largely due to the operation of these farms, the most famous of which is at Beltsville, twelve miles from Washington.

Beltsville scientists invented the aerosol spray bomb for killing harmful insects. They discovered the weed-killing powers of the amazing chemical 2, 4-D, conducted the first American tests of DDT and developed the hybrid Pan America tomato that resists wilt disease. They are working on a new strain of cotton that may prove to be superior to all others. The best local breeds of dairy cattle are being crossbred with Red Sindhis from India to produce cows that will milk to cool climate quotas in the warm regions of the South.

Beltsville workers have turned out hormone sprays that keep blossoms on fruit trees long past normal falling time. They invented a machine that sorts eggs for color electronically. A new Korean grass being tested at Beltsville may be the long-sought lawn cover that crowds out crab grass. The farm has produced a lily as big as a trombone bell and a pig that won't sunburn. But of all the marvels created by these scientists, only one—a turkey that just fits an apartment-sized oven—bears the name "Beltsville."

Largest in the nation, the experimental farm has 11,000 rolling Maryland acres. There are 2,000 employees, 950 buildings and 53 miles of roads. Included in the property are a granary, acres of greenhouses and an airport. Agents sent out to scout the land prior to its purchase 45 years ago reported it worn out and infertile. Soon restored to full production by good scientific management, Beltsville is now a national pride, a major guardian of the country's forests and farms, food, clothing and future health.

Floral Emblems

Those who are always ready to argue long and loud about coats-of-arms or a distinctive Canadian flag, says the Ottawa Citizen, will find fresh material for controversy in the color-bright field of provincial floral emblems. Research into the subject has produced emblems for all ten provinces, most of them official but others still without legal sanction.

Quebec, for example, boasts the famed fleur de lis, the wild iris, and Ontario the flower in triplicate, the gentle white trillium. In the Maritimes, Prince Edward Island recognizes the ladyslipper and New Brunswick the blue violet with its heart-shaped leaves. In Nova Scotia, the trailing arbutus (clusters of white to rose-colored flowers and oval-shaped leathery leaves) has led the way since the official proclamation of 1901 although the mayflower is given the nod in some quarters. Newfoundland reposes its faith in the pitcher plant with its pitcher-shaped leaves; it is said to have received its place of honor from the hands of no less a figure than Queen Victoria.

To the West, Manitoba has its anemone —crocus to the layman. Saskatchewan gives precedence to the prairie lily and its intense red or scarlet flower standing erect on the stem. Alberta adopted the wild rose as its emblem in 1930 even before Social Credit took office, while British Columbia has nominated the Pacific dogwood tree, 20 to 30 feet in height with pure white blossoms in clusters up to six inches across. As might be expected in the province whose inhabitants are occasionally caught effervescing about its balmy clime, the dogwood often blossoms twice, spring and fall.

Scout Leader Passes

The death of Mr. W. L. (Bill) Currier, Ottawa, Deputy Chief Executive Commissioner of the Boy Scouts, will be learned with regret here. Mr. Currier was well and favourably known, having spent some time in this Province, both actively in the furtherance of the Scout movement, and on vacation. His enthusiasm for Scouting was infectious and he no doubt turned aside more remunerative and enticing offers to stick with the youth movement so close to his heart. The success of the Scout movement in Canada today is in no small measure a tribute to his outstanding zeal and initiative.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Prince Richard of Gloucester was born this date 1944.

* * *

If ex-Prime Minister Mossadegh of Iran is executed for treason it will surely be the first time that anyone was so punished as a result of printing postage stamps. The stamps, labelled "Iranian Republic", are being interpreted as proof of disloyalty to the monarchy.

* * *

Canada's first atomic pile, NRX, is expected to be back in operation in October, ten months after it developed a pin-point radiation leak. The Chalk River project gave five years of service before having to close down temporarily. It is understood that the opportunity to inspect NRX will be of value in the construction of NRU which should be ready to operate in 1955.

* * *

The fact that Labour Day this year is on the seventh, the latest it can be, may be welcome to many school children and others but the variation from year to year provides a headache for those responsible for planning the school year. Under the proposed World Calendar it would invariably fall on the fourth and there would always be the same number of school days before Christmas.

* *

The battle of Le Cateau was fought this date 1914. The 2nd Corps was in too precarious a position to join in the retreat ordered by Sir John French. With its flanks "in the air", it fought a great battle with von Kluck. The British guns were outnumbered five to one. The three divisions temporarily held up seven German divisions before joining in the general retreat.

* * *

Today a famous news service is being commemorated at Victoria Beach, near Digby, N. S. A memorial will be unveiled recalling the Pony Express which carried the news for the predecessor of the Associated Press from Halifax to Digby and thence by ferry to Saint John which was in telegraphic communication with points in the United States, thus beating the steamships to Boston. The service was discontinued in November 1849 when the telegraph was extended to Halifax.

All That We Need Now

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.

ORIGINALITY AND IMITATION

Sir,—May I be pardoned for taking up the gauntlet, which the learned Minor Saxon has thrown down, on the subject of "Originality versus Imitation?"

I feel like a pygmy attacking a giant, but nonetheless "feel the urge" to add my bit towards pushing this argument to a convincing conclusion.

Shall originality be sacrificed to imitation or imitation to originality in the progress of modern education? This is the question, I believe,—but the one that confronts my mind at the moment is slightly beside the issue. Have we, as teachers and educationists, any control over originality—true creative ability as it appears in the growing natural artist—to sacrifice or to do otherwise with it? Is it not true that, when the "God-gifted artist" is set to work to do an exact copy of a former artist, in spite of orders, and his will to obey his instructors, the work automatically changes, be it music or painting, or writing, and that the finished copy mirrors the copyist more than the original artist? Is it not true that, force an imitation as you will, crush originality as you may, original creative art "will out" like the Truth that, lost for a while, eventually shines to betray itself—a light in darkness?

I once studied music in a class with a little girl of talent somewhat younger. She was given a lesson from a famous artist to imitate, for her practice. A few days after the lesson, I was with her at the piano, while she played her previous week's lesson. As I listened I questioned some changes in time and variations—particularly variations; and she replied "Yes, it's written that way, but I like to play it this way. It's prettier." I had to confess that it was prettier, for her arrangement. She played it exact for her teacher, but now, she was playing for **herself.** She didn't change the notes, she merely changed the variations of the rhythm. She was about eight years old but quite gifted in music.

The question I am getting at, is this: Does imitation have any influence—any detrimental influence on originality? Is it possible to sacrifice originality to imitation where "true originality" exists in the form of art or culture of any sort?

My conclusion is that it is not possible to sacrifice originality to imitation, nor is it reasonable nor sensible to sacrifice imitation to originality, in so far as education is concerned, or in so far as "teachers" are concerned. This matter, as I see it, is out of our hands—a matter that takes care of itself—the concern of The Muses, as the ancients put it.

Imitation is the only means by which the gifted child finds his way to true expression of originality. Imitation of the greatest artists teaches the growing artist the short cuts and direct routes to self expression. Have no fear as to his loss; he'll adjust any of the landmarks, or offending shrubbery that disturb his original sense of harmony, like the little girl at the piano. The artist "will be" himself and express himself, as soon as the chains of instruction are lax enough to give him freedom.

True originality consists in a sense of harmony and discord, the ability to make fine distinctions. The true artist may not always reveal these harmonies in his work. At times they reach ecstatic heights and produce something everlastingly lovely, but often, perhaps for want of education, or from other causes, he finds himself at a loss for inspiration to express himself as he wishes. Then little discords in works of art occur, and remain unnoticed, because of the outstanding harmonies of beauty. The true artist falls in line with the mind of the former artist, until he strikes these little discords that jar his own keen sense of harmony.

Shakespeare, through the mouth of Jacques in "As You Like It", says he wanted to write a poem, but could not find inspiration, so wrote a "silly rhyme to spite invention",—words to this effect.

But all people are not artists. The artist is distinguished (1) by his desire to create new things, (2) by his diseatisfaction with things as others do them, in a cultural sense; (3) he very often keeps by himself, not because he prefers to be alone, but, because his keen sense of discord and harmony in music, rhythm, colour, etc., makes him restless and uncomfortable in the general crowd—a sense due to high nervous tension perhaps, that other people neither feel nor understand. As a child, he cannot explain it. He only withdraws and works at the things he enjoys doing.

This keen sense of harmony, and discord, is never sacrificed to imitation, and furthermore I would say that imitation **must not** be sacrificed under the false assumption that it gives way to originality. Originality must be guided if it is to rise to true heights of self expression that can be truly appreciated by culture.

The traveller wishes to reach a certain goal by travelling through a woods. He knows his goal but has no guide or path. He finally arrives belatedly, scratched and torn, after his tortuous journey. This is the child of originality without education through imitation and rules of learning. Education with its rules and imitation for practice would have shown him a neat path free from thorns and obstacles, swamps and mudpits, to his goal, on schedule time.

Let's say in conclusion, that originality must not be sacrificed to imitation because it cannot be in the process of learning, and imitation may not, reasonably, be surrendered, because it is one of the essential tools of learning and practice.

Of those who insist upon continued imitation after a certain degree of education has enabled the student to give freedom to creative action, we must conclude that they are not artists, but good imitators. That they prefer to imitate, rather than to create, is the proof that they are not original thinkers, and would not make good "leaders" in any role of life. These are readily distinguished in the schoolroom. The child that acts on his own initiative and the child who looks to see what the others are doing before he takes a stand or makes a move.

I shall be glad to hear from Minor Saxon again. His comments are interesting and I'm sure he has some new angles to add to this discussion.

I am, Sir, etc.,
ULRIC.
Summerside.

The Poet's Corner

THE DESERTED PASTURE

Only the children come there,
For buttercups in May,
Or nuts in autumn, where it lies
Dreaming the hours away.

Long since its strength was given
To making good increase.
And now its soul is turned again
To beauty and to peace.

There in the early springtime
The violets are blue,
The adder-tongues in coats of gold
Are garmented anew.

There bayberry and aster
Are crowded on its floors,
When marching summer halts to praise
The Lord of Out-of-doors.

And there October passes
In gorgeous livery,—
In purple ash, and crimson oak,
And golden tulip tree.

And when the winds of winter
Their bugle blasts begin,
The snowy hosts of heaven arrive
And pitch their tents therein.

—Bliss Carmen.

Old Charlottetown
(And P. E. I.)

NEW INDUSTRIES

"We are happy to find that two manufactures have been started in the City. Mr. W. B. Dawson, for making leather,—the other, of Craig & Company, for converting the leather into boots and shoes. The former of these is now well known, and its utility duly appreciated,—the second is of recent origin; both of these have been started without protection or duty. The spirited proprietors ascertained that the time had come, and took their measures accordingly. The City Tannery is a decided success, we should say.

"We looked in upon Messrs. Craig & Company's establishment a day or two since, and were much gratified with the sight. Everything that can be done by machinery, is so done; the stitching and binding by means of the sewing machine. We were highly pleased with the operation of cutting the heel of the boot or shoe at one cut, by the mere pressure of the foot; another slight pressure rivets the metal eyelet into the lace-hole. There was also a machine of greater power worked by a crank, for giving the proper shape to the fronts of boot legs. All these labour-saving machines make, of course, the work cheaper, and as it should, always enables the maker to sell the article at the same or a lower price than the imported one of the same quality. . .

"We do not know how many hands Mr. Dawson's establishment maintains, but we have enquired and find that Messrs. Craig & Company employ over thirty persons. We sincerely trust that the success that may deservedly attend those now instituted, will serve as an inducement to others to try their fortunes in other branches of trade."

—The Islander, Feb. 5, 1864.

Tones From Stones

("This Week In Britain")

"The recent discovery of the lithophone is a most important landmark in the field of musical history" said John Blacking, talking in the BBC's Third Programme. The lithophone can be given no accurate date, but prehistorians affirm that it was certainly invented before the birth of Christ, and was possibly four or even five thousand years old. The instrument consists of a number of large, resonant pieces of stone, between twenty-five and thirty-five inches long, each weighing from eleven to twenty-six pounds, and it was discovered in Indo China by a young French ethnographer who was on a mission in Laos. One evening he heard people discussing some large stones which had been dug up during the construction of a new road and when he visited the site he immediately realised that the stone were of prehistoric origin. They were taken to the Musee de L'Hommo in Paris and examined by the Head of the Department of Prehistory, who was struck by the flaking and trimming employed in their manufactures. AA musicologist also recognized the elements of a musical instrument with a scale not unlike the typical Janvanese one, and Dr. Kust of Amsterdam, the leading authority on Javanese music, confirmed this. After much research it was concluded that the stones were made expressly for musical purposes and subsequently abandoned. People who discovered them later were ignorant of their real purpose and assumed that they had a religious significance.

It is probable that the lithophone is an ancestor of the early instruments of Java and Bali, which are composed of a series of bronze keys arranged horizontally in the manner of a xylophone. Oddly enough the lowest tones were not necessarily produced by the longest and heaviest stones, for two almost identical stones produced notes as widely separated as those made by two others whose dimensions differed greatly. By meticulous flaking of the stones the makers had been able to distinguish an interval as minute as an eighth of a tone, and were able to raise or lower the pitch by shaving off small flakes or retouching the ends and sides of the stones. They keys were obviously placed on two horizontal pieces of wood which in turn must have been placed over a small trench to allow for resonance, but it is not known how the stones were struck, for they bear no sign of violent blows. "These so called 'primitive' men knew as much as any founder of tuner of bells," said Blacking in his broadcast, "they were first-rate musicians who have been able to show the world that they had a fine knowledge of acoustics and instrument-making."

Notes By The Way

Complexes are among the few things which can be created merely by talking about them.— Owen Sound Sun-Times.

A shark suffers no permanent loss if his front teeth fall out or even break off in a tough prey that gets away. Several smaller rows in back are constantly moving forward to replace front teeth shed or lost. — St. Catharines Standard.

Down in Australia, the law compels people to cast their votes. And the report is that they accept the law in the same way regulations are accepted here, such as shovelling the snow in winter time off the frontage walk. — St. Catharines Standard.

Prof. Vaclav Hlavaty of the graduate institute of applied mathematics at Indiana university has achieved solutions of fundamental equations submitted by Albert Einstein to explain the universe. The Chicago Tribune says that when Einstein propounded his theories, he said he was doubtful whether they were capable of demonstration. He credits Prof. Hlavaty with offering the right answers. —Vancouver News Herald.

"The poison of a bee sting is made up of two fluids, formic acid from one gland and an alkaline from a pair of glands. They unite in a tiny reservoir and then flow down a channel of the sting into the wound, being pumped down by a special set of muscles. When once the bee has set the poison flowing the operation becomes automatic, so much so that if the bee tears out the whole delicate apparatus you can watch the muscles still working the pump, and this movement has been known to go on by itself for as much as eight minutes until the machinery runs down." —Evelyn Cheeseman.

An anonymous American tourist in New Brunswick has just completed the kind of public relations deal which has the best chance of succeeding. In Moncton a visitor walked into the police station and asked the chief if he would send a gift of $200 on to the Ontario couple who lost their vacation money while visiting in Saint John. He wouldn't even give his name. He just said he had read in this paper about the soldier and his wife who were stranded in Saint John and wanted to help them. The police chief did find out that the American was a Shriner. — Saint John Telegraph-Journal.

Norman Olman, director of the Greater New York Safety Council, which recently conducted a survey to examine 8000 car drivers, found that one in every five had serious defects of vision. Most of the cases were greatly surprised that they had any defect, and even those who knew they had defects thought they were right because they wore glasses. Many of the cases who wore glasses were found to have only 20-20 vision in each eye and only 20-60 for fused vision, which is below the minimum standard set for driver licenses in New York. Most of them, when they had new lenses put in, passed in driving tests at a good grade. It must be certain that the same proportion of defective vision would be found in Massachusetts and most other states. No wonder the slaughter on our roads continues year after year despite all the warnings and road regulations, if such a high proportion of our drivers are half blind. — Boston Post.

Now that the school holidays are almost over city streets will soon see again the morning and afternoon rush of cycling students. Although the anxiety to reach home is understandably greater than the anxiety to reach school, young cyclists would do well to temper their impatience with caution and remember that it is better to arrive safely than not at all. There is no "riding test" for cyclists similar to the one for motorists, but the Highway Traffic Act lays down a number of rules for cycling. Young people often have only a hazy idea of these rules and this, perhaps, accounts for the way in which they are sometimes broken. Occasionally one passes a cyclist blithely riding along a road at night without a light on his machine, or making a wobbling progress with a passenger perched on the crossbar. Both practices are illegal, as is also the one of shouting for some one to get out of the way because the machine is not equipped with a bell or horn. Apart from the illegality, all these practices are selfish for they show a complete disregard for the safety of other road users and cause consideable anxiety, particularly to motorists — An editorial for young people, Hamilton Spectator.

The Age Old Story

It came to pass, when Jesus had ended these sayings, the people were astonished at his doctrine: for he taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes.

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