

THE GUARDIAN

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"The Strongest Memory is Weaker Than the Weakest Ink"

CHARLOTTETOWN TUESDAY, DEC. 26, 1950

Back To Bunyan

Always in his Christmas broadcasts His Majesty King George chooses some classical excerpt in prose or verse, and on this bases his homily to his people throughout the Empire. On this occasion, to emphasize the momentous issues facing mankind at the present time, he went back four hundred years to an English tinker, John Bunyan, whose "Pilgrim's Progress", written in a Bedford jail, has taken its place among the greatest of all works in English literature.

Citing the threat of another world war overshadowing Christendom today, His Majesty recalled the passage of Bunyan's Christian through the Valley of the Shadow of Death, and how he was saved by keeping his eyes fixed on the Delectable Mountains in the distance.

There were not only giants and lions in Christian's way; even more fearful adversaries loomed up in the friendly shape of human beings. Faint Heart's counsel nearly sabotaged Christian's efforts. Another gentleman of the same family was Mr. By-ends, who had a lot of other relatives, and who resided in the town of Fair-speech.

When Christian asked, "Are you a married man?" Mr. By-ends replied: "Yes, and my wife is a very virtuous woman, the daughter of a virtuous woman; she was my Lady Feigning's daughter; therefore she came of a very honourable family, and is arrived at such a pitch of breeding, that she knows how to carry it to all, even to prince and peasant."

Then (says Bunyan) Christian stepped a little aside to his fellow, Hopeful, saying, "It runs in my mind that this is one By-ends, of Fair-speech, and if it be he, we have as very a knave in our company as dwelleth in all these parts."

The race of such knaves is by no means extinct. Happy for us all if we are able to assess them as accurately as did Bunyan's hero!

Red-And-White Holsteins

As at least every Island farm boy knows, Holsteins are normally black and white, with the colours in sharp contrast. The well-marked Holstein must have no white hairs among the black and no black hairs among the white.

When the Holstein breed was established in Holland countless cow-generations ago there were some red-and-white cattle in the herds. But the black-and-whites assumed the ascendancy, and the red-and-whites became a separate breed that was never developed on this continent.

An effort now is being made on the Wisconsin farms to build up a new breed of red-and-white Holsteins and the farm manager has been able to acquire 14 such animals.

While surprised that anyone would prefer Holsteins that are red and white, cattle breeding experts in Ontario are interested in the experiment. At least the reformatory farm in Wincosin will have a breed no one else has.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Feast of St. Stephen.

The Post Office still must face the flurry of New Year greeting cards.

Not all were able to enjoy Christmas in the family circle. Those who did owe a special debt of thankfulness.

The Christmas tree which had its glorious hour becomes more of a fire hazard the longer it is kept.

Open air Christmas Carol singing by church choirs and similar organizations was a feature of this year's festivities.

Thomas Gray, English poet, died this date, 1771. He declined the laureate ship on the death of Cibber, but in 1768 was appointed professor of modern history at Cambridge.

Mr. J. Watson MacNaught, M.P., is being welcomed home from his visit to Australia, New Zealand, etc. It must have been a great experience for him both from an economic and social point of view.

How often is it the case we fail to appreciate our ordinary blessings till we lose them. The telephone and telegraph, for instance we take as a matter of course, and then suddenly, due to "an act of God", we are entirely deprived of them and are at a loss what to do to substitute for them.

Premier Jones is naturally much more concerned about the threatened increase of freight rates than even the average business man; for he has made it his particular business to enlighten the Government and the Railway authorities on the vital importance of reduced rates to and from Prince Edward Island.

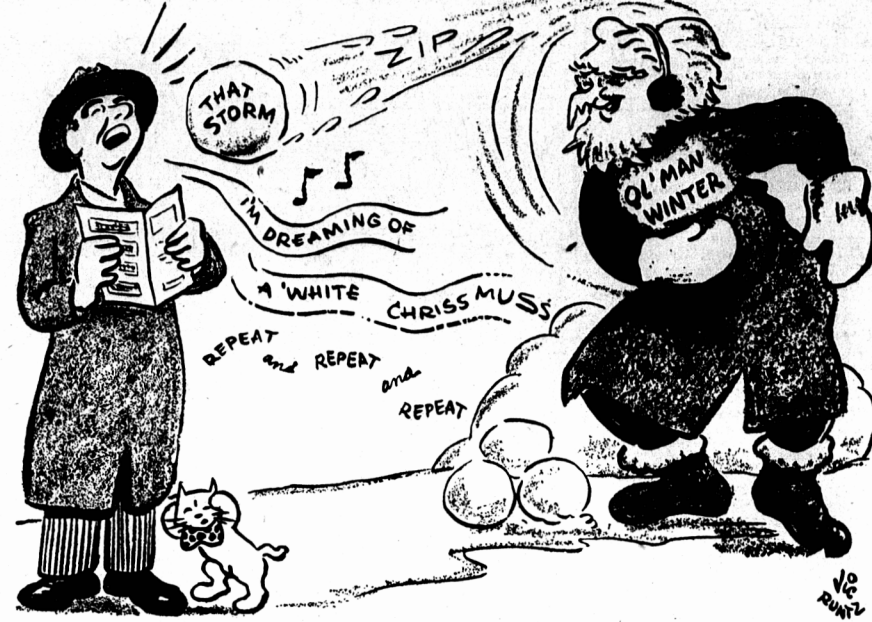
Eleven years ago, on Christmas Day 1939, more than 7,500 members of Canada's Armed Forces were welcomed into almost as many English homes for the first of many Christmases they were to spend overseas. They had arrived in Britain only a week before. That year, too, Christmas was celebrated by thousands of troops at sea in troop transports.

Christmas Day also marked the arrival overseas of the last infantry battalions of the 2nd Division. ... Christmas Day 1941 was one of the darkest of the Second World War for the people of Canada. Two Canadian battalions fighting in Hong Kong surrendered after a gallant fight against hopeless odds.

By Christmas 1942, Canada was really beginning to feel the effects of war. Thousands of young men were overseas and hundreds who had been at Dieppe were still in British hospitals or languishing in German prisoner of war camps.

Little that was comforting was known of the men who had fallen or been taken at Hong Kong. ... By Christmas 1943, Allied troops could look back with pride upon some of their achievements. The conquest of North Africa had been completed; Sicily was behind them, and they were slugging their way up through Italy.

The Response Was Overwhelming



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.

TRIBUTE APPRECIATED

Sir,—The people of this Province of Prince Edward Island read with appreciation the beautifully worded letter regarding the Memorial Bells in the tower of the historic church of the Parish of Saint Paul, by a gentleman whose benefactions down the years have been an outstanding blessing to all concerned.

I am, Sir, etc., VICTORIAN Charlottetown

SEEKS ISLAND PEN-FRIEND

Sir,—Would you be so generous as to publish a request in your newspaper for a feminine pen-friend from Prince Edward Island for me? Rather late in life (34) I read my daughter's copies of the "Anne" books which give wonderfully interesting accounts of P.E.I. I'm enchanted and I would like very much to exchange letters with anyone who lives there.

I already have a pen-friend in Bombay and one in Lagos, Nigeria. Prince Edward Island must be a lovely place. I hope one day when my daughters are older that I can visit it.

(MRS.) ALISON LEONARDT Avalon; 33 Murdoch Street, Turrumurra, New South Wales, Australia.

The Poet's Corner

WINTER HARVEST

Beyond the door the swirling snowdrift mounts; Closed is earth and closed the year's accounts. The woodshed window furs to frosty white. The farmer sets another piggy bank.

—Charles Malam.

J. P. MacPherson & Son Men's Clothing That Fits SUITS - TOPCOATS - OVERCOATS 157 QUEEN ST.

Gilbert & Sullivan In The Public Realm

(Peterboro Examiner)

The copyright protection of the Gilbert and Sullivan operas has at last run out, and they are now in the public realm; anyone who wishes to perform them may do so without obtaining permission, and without payment of a fee.

In a way, this is a pity. These operas—we call them that, though in strict truth they are operettas, or musical comedies—do not respond well to alteration, modernizing and tinkering in general.

This perfection was the result of the extreme care which Gilbert gave to the writing of each libretto; he wrote, polished, and wrote again. He was his own director, and when he had laid down the plan upon which one of his works was to be produced, he permitted no alterations.

It was their good luck that their man of business, Richard D'Oyley Carte, was a perfectionist too. In his own way, he and his son Rupert made it their business to insist that the operas be performed precisely as Gilbert and Sullivan intended; they maintained a comic opera company of their own which set the style and carried on the tradition.

Anyone who has seen that company perform one or more of the operas knows how shy that work was done, and how stimulating the performances were. To see, let us say, "The Mikado" performed by the D'Oyley Carte Company was to be granted a backward glance into one of the happiest corners of Victorian England.

We hope the tradition will be maintained, even though the monopoly has expired. Only innovators of a genius equal to that possessed by Gilbert and Sullivan themselves would be capable of improving upon their delightful works, and geniuses of that stamp are rare.

Old Charlottetown

(And P. E. I.)

JUNIPER KNEES

Legislative Assembly, April 7, 1853;

Mr. Francis Longworth gave notice that he would, at the next session of the House, move that a duty of five shillings be imposed on each and every Juniper Knee exported from this Island during the year 1854.

The hon. member said that his object in giving such timely notice was that parties who might hereafter, contract for the supply of any quantity of Juniper Knees for exportation, might be fully aware, when so doing, of what might be the action of the Legislature in a future session, with reference to that article.

Too Much For A Skunk

(E. C. Burton in 'Sylvia')

One night there was a scuffle under the cabin, followed by a terrific odor that only a skunk could make.

A couple of nights later the same thing happened again in the middle of the night. The choking smell kept us awake the rest of the night, and lingered for a couple of days. The skunk family had been inoffensive enough so long as they were left to themselves, but when some other animal encroached on their privacy they let fly.

Something had to be done about it, but the question was "What?" Finally my son hit on an idea. "I'll chase them away," he said. "I'll play them at their own game." Putting a handful of sulphur into a tin can, he put a match to it, and slid it cautiously under the verandah.

The fumes were pretty bad for a while, but not much worse than

Notes By The Way

It would be a great mistake to suppose that necessary as a vast preparedness program is, it will supply the full answer to communism's world-wide challenge. Mr. Truman properly presented rearmament as only one part of a program which begins with upholding the United Nations and the principles of freedom and justice.

A caller at the editorial offices says that on these slippery streets, which are particularly difficult for pedestrians on the down grades of the Port Arthur hills, people should use walking canes with spikes. He thinks they might save a few trips to the hospital.

Edward Johnson, of Guelph, former manager of the Metropolitan Opera, New York, urges the creation of talent scholarships to prevent Canadian talent escaping to the United States. But talent will go where opportunity awaits, where the rewards of talent lie. If Canada talent will go elsewhere, Talent holds no pistol to the head of the entrepreneur.

Four times a year in a big London warehouse down at the Docks a few men gather to bid for old teeth. These originally belonged to African elephants and they come to the warehouse from all over that continent to be sorted, measured, graded and finally auctioned. Some ivory is obtained from elephants that are shot, though these are very few, some is found on dead animals in swamps and undergrowth and some is paid in taxes by tribal chiefs.

The old lady came out from under the cabin, followed by the young ones . . . one, two, three, four, that was a language they could understand. And they did not come back for more.

Seeing ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit unto unfeigned love of the brethren, see that ye love one another with a pure heart fervently; being born again, not of corruptible seed, but incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever.

The Age-Old Story

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