THE GUARDIAN

"Covers Prince Edward Island Like the Dew"

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

Bastille Day

July 14 is observed in France and by French communities everywhere as Bastille Day. It commemorates one of the dramatic incidents of the Revolution which changed the political face of the world. Originally the word "Bastille" was used in describing the castles of the Middle Ages, but in French history it took on the meaning of a state prison. The Bastille of Paris was one of the very infamous prisons of all time. In pre-revolutionary days, when the French monarch exercised absolute power over the persons of his subjects, countless numbers of prisoners, ranging from petty thieves to political anarchists, were thrown into this vile dungeon where, in many instances, they remained for the rest of their lives, often without trial. It stood in St. Antoine, the birthplace of the Revolution.

Because of its odious character the Bastille of Paris was one of the first places to be attacked when the mad crowd broke loose. "Down with the Bastille" was one of the war cries of that time of hate and violence. When entrance had been forced, with the aid of some soldiers who had gone over to the people, the attackers found seven living persons; one man had been there for thirty years without sight of the outside world. On the walls a prisoner had written: "The Bastille shall one day be demolished and the people shall dance on the area where it stood"; a prophecy which was fulfilled to the letter.

After the iniquitous place had fallen on July 14, 1789, Lafayette, the hero of the Revolution, sent a model of it, three feet in length and about half as wide, and a key, to General Washington, accompanied by the following note: "Give me leave, my dear General, to present you with a picture of the Bastille as it looked a few days after I ordered its demolition, with the main key to the fortress of despotism. It is a gift which I owe as a son to my adopted father, as a son of liberty to its patriarch." The model and key have been preserved at Mount Vernon. Where the Bastille once stood as a symbol of terror there now rises a marble monument dedicated to justice, the constitution, strength, and freedom. It is 154 feet high.

Red China and The U. N.

Dealing with the determined opposition at Washington to admitting Red China to the United Nations, the Winnipeg Free Press observes evidence of a "deepening conviction" in other capitals that recognition is now virtually unavoidable, and is in any case the only realistic course in present circumstances. Thus a long smouldering issue threatens to blaze up, dividing the free nations and dangerously weakening the front against militant Communism.

What is most urgently needed at the moment, says the Free Press, is a calm reappraisal of the position of the Western world in its relations with Mainland China. It should be candidly recognized that in dealings with Peiping, the democracies have faced not a static but a constantly changing situation. At the outset the British may well have been premature in extending recognition to a surly regime, in the arrogant flush of military victory. Nevertheless by the spring of 1950, as public opinion in the United States recovered from the shock of the Nationalist defeat, Washington, for reasons valid enough, was also moving towards recognition. Chinese aggression in Korea altered everything. As Senator Knowland very properly argued, it was intolerable that any power should be permitted to "shoot its way into the United Nations."

But it does not follow that the Senator is right today because he was right yesterday. The fighting has stopped in Korea where the military mission of the United Nations has been accomplished. The struggle in Indo-China was in origin a civil war and remains outside the jurisdiction of the United Nations. It is indeed imperative that Communist aggression, open or disguised, should be brought to a halt by concerted resistance but it can be argued powerfully that the Knowland policy, far from advancing this cause, is now a positive deterrent to the realization of those ends which the Senator has at heart.

It is too often assumed in the United States that recognition implies approval of the government concerned. Yet in practice Washington commonly conforms—notably in relations with the Latin American states—to a much older tradition. Far from being a moral act recognition implies solely that a particular regime effectively governs a given territory as the Peiping Government certainly controls Mainland China.

Both in England and New Zealand, recognition of Red China is favored on the ground that such a policy would make it possible to detach Red China from Soviet Russia. "Senator Knowland and his allies," says the Free Press, "may be entirely right in replying that this is for the present a very faint hope. But in the Knowland-Nixon policy there is no hope. It is worse than barren because it forces China into Russian arms. It means that in virtually all situations the Kremlin must act in international affairs as the spokesman of the Peiping regime. The eventual goal of any realistic policy must be a Chinese Government that is the master of its own affairs but the effect of the Knowland policy is to ensure in advance that the conditions for such a development cannot mature."

Christian Missions In India

Ever since India, Pakistan, and Ceylon were granted full political independence leaders of the various Churches have been wondering what long-term effect the change will have on Christian missionary work in that part of the world. Recently, an indication of what to expect was given by Prime Minister Nehru of India who told a delegation of Christian members of the Indian Parliament that the Government would adhere strictly to its policy of full religious tolerance. This means, according to Mr. Nehru, that every religion, including the Christian, will have "complete and equal freedom" in India. It does not mean, however, that the Government will permit "any political activity on the part of missionaries"; nor does it mean that "evangelist work that gets associated with condemnation of some form of India culture" will be tolerated. When this happens, the Prime Minister intimated, it results in conflict and is resented by the Indian people.

Another point made by Mr. Nehru was that, as far as possible, Indian Christian Churches should be independent since, as he put it, "nationalism is a dominant urge in the country." He noted finally that "a tendency on the part of some missionaries to treat natives as primitive and backward people hinders the free intercourse which is desirable."

These assurances on the part of the Prime Minister of India will be received with satisfaction in Christian Church councils; the conditions attached to the assurances should also be well received for they appear to be fair and reasonable. They should prove to be a help, not a hindrance, to Christian missions.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Russia has taken another step away from hero-worship and towards collective leadership. Since June 8 the top nine leaders have been listed in newspaper stories and elsewhere in alphabetical order rather than according to their relative rank within the hierarchy. Formerly one could estimate an individual's importance with perfect accuracy by observing the order of such lists.

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According to an Ottawa rumor there is to be no fall session of the House of Commons. The reason given is that there are a number of by-elections to be held—five vacancies exist at the present time including seats made vacant by the resignation of three cabinet ministers—and that there will be no attempt to hold these elections until after the summer holidays. This will bring the voting on late in the fall.

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Despite the disadvantage suffered by the Canadian Indian over the years, notes the Ottawa Journal, not a few have made their mark in Canada and beyond. One of the senior officials of the federal government who is proud of his Indian blood is Dr. G. C. Monture, Chief of the Mineral Resources Division, Department of Mines and Technical Surveys. A full-blooded Mohawk Indian, Brigadier Martin, rose to field rank in World War II. In the early years of the present century, a Canadian Indian, Tom Longboat, ranked among the very top marathon runners of his time.

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Stephanus Johannes Paulus Kruger, four times president of the Transvaal republic, died this date 1904. All through his life he considered himself under special divine guidance and protection. At the age of 17 he was an assistant field coronet. At 27 he took command of an expedition against Sechele, the Bechuana chief. He entered wholeheartedly into all the political strife of his time and his policies when in office did much to bring about the Boer War. In 1899 he fled to Europe and resided at Utrecht.

Catching The Imagination

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.

WHERE WOMEN RULE

Sir,—Where do women not rule? They are the most powerful force in our society. Their method is quiet and unobtrusive but they get their way. They stay home. They are with the children most of the time. Their influence is shed over their lives.

My letter today concerns the women of India. There are in that country 155,000,000 women and they are moulding India to their own mind. They are getting education. They are taking their places in the professions and in business. They vote. They own property. The older Hindus stand aghast at the modern women of India, how they assume leadership and get away with it, how they go to college and learn the sacred Sanscrit which no woman is allowed to learn. They even learn English.

Worst of all in the eyes of the ancients of India, the wife no longer looks upon her husband as a god through whom alone she has hope of Nirvana. So sacred is her husband that she will not pronounce his name. Equality with man is not thought of. New ideas are fast spreading throughout India, and the women especially are doing it.

Typical of the ideal Indian woman is Sita, wife of Rama the god of the Hindus, who deserves higher honour than her husband, but because she was a woman never got what was her due. Among Hindus there are thousands of Indian women as fine as Sita. I shall choose one as an illustration, Pandita Ramabai, born in 1858 of high caste parents. She was small of stature but of commanding personality. Early in life she became concerned with the sad condition of Indian womanhood, child marriage, child widows, the ignorance and slavery of Indian women. She was among the first to open schools for women. At one time she had 19,000 famine victims in her care, feeding and teaching them.

As a young woman she became very dissatisfied with Hinduism and went to England, to St. Mary's Convent and saw for herself the simple Christian life lived and their work among the poor of London. Ramabai became a Christian and was baptized. To further her education she went across to the United States, and in a lecture tour took the American people by storm. They formed Pandita Ramabai Societies and supported her school work in India. Her lectures were in perfect English with a touch of London in them.

After six years she returned to India where she was met with mingled feelings. Those who were waiting for the new India received her with open arms, but the orthodox Hindus were suspicious of this new and learned woman who knew so much more than they did and had embraced Christianity. They feared she would lead their Indian women astray, but this great spirit who loved India and especially the downtrodden women, threw herself into her work of education and reform, in which she spent the rest of her life which ended peacefully in her sleep in 1922, having given over fifty years of heroic service to her beloved India.

I am, Sir, etc.,

W. I. GREEN

Stanley Bridge.

The Age Old Story

Know ye that the Lord he is God: it is he that hath made us, and not we ourselves; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.

NFLD. BOY DROWNED

GULL ISLAND, Nfld., (CP) — Michael Doyle, 12, drowned near this Conception Bay settlement Monday when he fell from a rock into deep water. He was swimming with companions when he slipped.

ATLANTIC LETTER

New Brunswick Power Problem

By Douglas Howe

FREDERICTON — New Brunswick is facing both an opportunity and a dilemma quite beyond anything it's known. Together they are of national significance because they bring to a head the question of something approaching uniform national development in a federal state made up of regions whose differences thwart it.

This province has lagged because, it was long said, it had neither the power nor the resources to do otherwise. Now it has enough of both on the horizon to make it, potentially, a small economic dynamo. To exploit fully the newly-found resources of Bathurst's mineral fields and others, it must have cheap power in relative plenty and this too is now known to be available in the St. John River. There is the opportunity, one that could start a revolution in the Maritime economy.

But there also is the dilemma. The province is ill equipped to finance the cheap power to spark the revolution. Its public debt already has reached the delicate stage where it absorbs nearly a quarter of the provincial government expenditures just for service charges. A population (roughly 525,000) half the size of Montreal's bears this burden with a per capita income less than 60 per cent of Ontario's. The 6,600 miles of power lines built to serve this thin and scattered realm, the lack of developed waterpower and other factors have resulted in the further burden of just about the costliest power in Canada.

All these things have merged in one vicious cycle in which industry largely ignored the province because of its small and costly power and the province couldn't do much about it because the lack of industrial development kept it poor. Now at last it can begin to see a bright tomorrow —only to have these yesterdays hobble it.

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Yet already one can see clearly in Fredericton the start of a race to have more and cheaper power available within the next few years to coincide with Bathurst's needs. The race must be made, no matter what the obstacles, for the alternative is to surrender much of Bathurst's prospects and, with them, tomorrow itself.

Three power sites on the St. John River have been adjudged economic but the current pivot is one of these, Beechwood. It alone would about double the power output to roughly 300,000 h.p., even then only about five per cent of Quebec's. With the right financing, it would start a marked downward trend in power costs that would eventually affect the whole provincial industrial picture. So Beechwood is the key, the spark, the start.

But it will cost $45 millions and that's not far short of the provincial government's entire annual income. It might be compared to the unlikely prospect of Ottawa taking on a single project costing close to its entire annual revenue of $45 billions. To go to the money markets for this sort of financing, particularly in view of the province's top-heavy financial structure, would lead to what the Flemming government has called "prohibitive" power costs. Actually it would be possible this way to get cheaper power but not attractively so and it would create severe financial problems quite outside the power question.

In its dilemma, New Brunswick has gone to Ottawa and said in effect, "will the nation as a whole help us over this hurdle? Once we've made this big step, we hope and feel we'll be able to go on by ourselves." It sought a loan granted over a period of years at no or cheap interest—not a federal handout to provide temporary jobs but a federal investment, that would be repaid, in something solid that could create years of jobs that would create more jobs.

Ottawa replied that it would not be "right or proper" for it to give help on those lines for development of provincial resources. In this, it doubtless has the comfort and the legality of the constitution behind it. But in a nation of sharply-differing regional prosperities, in a time of fast-breaking but uneven national development, it implies a lack of flexibility, even of scope for internal statesmanship at the core of our national structure.

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Here is a new situation quite suddenly developed and quite urgent. A have-not province becomes a could-have province and Ottawa finds it would not be proper for the nation to help the transformation even though the rewards, to the whole nation, of a more prosperous, less frustrated New Brunswick could be large. It's been suggested in the past that Canada needs an equivalent of Britain's development loans for its have-not areas. Beechwood is a salient illustration. One can only wonder whether the billion-dollar unemployment insurance fund could not be used, in part, to back such positive projects to start development chain-reactions rather than being kept in negative entrenchments waiting for jobs to vanish.

In its mineral situation alone, the N. B. stakes are starkly clear. Already one can sense in visiting Bathurst and Fredericton that it's not going to be easy for the province to get the mining interests to locate within its boundaries the plants that would carry this bonanza into the real riches of processing and secondary industry. Yet without that Bathurst could become just another good regional primary industry, employing less men than the slumping Maritime coal industry is having to cut loose; could become just another facet in the economic colonialism the area has known too long. Without the prospect of lots of cheap power, the province would be largely helpless to prevent it. Small wonder, therefore, that it's still hoping and working to change Ottawa's mind.

But this goes beyond Bathurst. Even without it, the province will need in another 7 or 8 years all Beechwood's power just through normal growth. It's awakening and moving ahead. The original impetus that led to the prospects both of Bathurst and the St. John river came from within — belatedly perhaps, but significantly.

NOTES BY THE WAY

Some people think genius is hereditary. Others have no children. —Edmonton Journal.

Most infant prodigies are small children with highly imaginative parents. —Port Arthur News-Chronicle.

A great step forward in the emancipation of women has been taken in Communist Bulgaria. A new law forbids them to push wheelbarrows weighing more than 200 pounds, unloaded. —Edmonton Journal.

Word-production of the House of Commons in the session just closed is set at 8,000,000. But that is unofficial. Anybody who wants the exact figure can count them for himself—every last word is in the nearly 7,000 pages of Hansard. —Ottawa Journal.

Towed offshore from Peru, a Frenchman is trying to drift across the Pacific on a small raft, with no company but a parrot and a cat. We can think of many more cheerful companions than a wet parrot and a wet cat. Why not something more damp-resistant, a duck, say, and an otter? —Toronto Star.

We remember hearing long ago of a magistrate who found a prisoner not guilty, but warned him never to repeat the offence again. That seemed something like the case of Dr. J. Robert Oppenheimer in the United States. The Security Board of the Atomic Energy Commission has found him completely loyal but that he should no longer be trusted with government secrets. What's the score?

The National Council of Women at the week-end congratulated itself on women's "progress" in the political field in Canada but on sober reflection most women surely can't find much to cheer about. That is, supposing they want to cheer, which is by no means certain. It's a generation or more since women were given the vote in Canada and in this fast-moving world a lot can be done in a generation, given the will. But women have yet to capture the great share in public life which was the goal of the early-century feminists like Mrs. Pankhurst and Carrie Chapman Catt. —Vancouver Sun.

Canada, her laurels somewhat droopy since the Russians beat her at her national game of hockey, has more or less recovered prestige by defeating the Soviet grand master Igor Bondarevsky at the old Hindu game of chess. This may not be quite as disconcerting to the Russians as beating them at batting the balalaika, knocking back vodka, or yo-hoing boats on the Volga, but nevertheless it was an impressive performance. —Toronto Telegram.

Come the next rainy day, thousands of youngsters will be wandering aimlessly around home or summer cottage, at a loose end and in the grip of boredom, muttering: "I just don't know what to do with myself." It is a complaint that sums up two of the most common misconceptions of our day—misconceptions held by adults just as much as by young people: That it is impossible to be happy unless deliberately "doing something" in the sense of seeking entertainment; and that it is, in fact, possible for there to be a waking moment in which the individual does not really have something with which he can occupy himself profitably and enjoyably if he knows where to look for it. The mind is like a house—there is always some job to be done in it. There is always some new idea that has not yet been thought through, some book that there has not yet been time to read, some quotation to be tracked to its source and verified, even some half-familiar word to be looked up in the dictionary and made into a completely understood and useful piece of the minds equipment.

—From an editorial for young people, Hamilton Spectator.

Old Charlottetown and P. E. I.

IMPERIAL DUTIES

"Importers of wine, gin, brandy and other articles subject to duties imposed by the Imperial Parliament for the regulation of Commerce and the payment of Officers' salaries, in the Colonies, are probably not aware that the duties on such articles levied at the Custom House on importation here, will, from henceforth, be received only in British Money, or in Spanish Dollars at the rate of four shillings and four pence each.

"A petition was addressed to the Lieutenant Governor in May last, by several individuals engaged in trade, stating the inconvenience, if not absolute impossibility, of complying with the instructions of the Board of Customs, requiring those duties to be paid in British Money or in Spanish Dollars, when His Excellency interposed on their behalf, and the Collector consented to receive Treasury notes, and the other money current in the country, in payment of those duties until the case should be made known to the Board of Customs, to whom he immediately communicated the circumstance.

"In answer to his communication the Board transmitted, for the governance of their officers, a copy of the Treasury Minute in reference to communications on the same subject from Lower Canada, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia and Newfoundland, and which, as far at least as respects the Island, affords no relaxation whatever of the original order."

—P. E. I. Register, Jan. 6, 1829.

The Poet's Corner

SUMMER DAWN

When the sun rolls up behind a wall of grey
Crinking the edges of an indolent cloud
With gold and orange broidery, and the grey
Unfolding undulations swiftly crowd
Over the ocean, how easy to believe
The world still young—so sharply do we feel
The limpid freshness of the morning steal
Along the edges of the mind and leave
A luster on the body like the glow
Of sunrise on the tide. Gladly we lift
Our faces to the east as islands show
Their tenderest smiles at daybreak.
All the drift
Of life is flooding with new hopes that run
And touch us as the bay is touched with sun.

—Wilbert Snow.

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