

THE GUARDIAN

Authorized as Second Class Mail Post Office Department, Ottawa. The Island Guardian Publishing Co. Editor and Managing Director, Ian A. Burnett, Associate Editor, Frank Walker. CIRCULATION "Covers Prince Edward Island like the dew" "The strongest memory is weaker than the weakest ink". CHARLOTTETOWN SATURDAY, DEC. 19, 1953

Christmas Cheer

Music and colour and cheer characterize the Christmas season, for it is traditionally a season and not a day on the calendar. This is the time when families are reunited and friendships are renewed. We hope that this Christmas Number of The Guardian will contribute to the general feeling of joy in the festive season. Many individuals have contributed to its pages, not least the merchants who serve the public throughout the year but who at Christmas make prodigious efforts to help everyone to get exactly the right gift that they have in mind.

Every community, large and small, is blossoming out in colourful lights and decorations. Young and old feel a lift as they see the sights and feel the undercurrent of excitement. To the youngsters, of course, it is the central point of the whole year and so it should be.

There were people who discouraged Dickens in his efforts to make Christmas the joyous festival it should be. They are forgotten, however, and the "Christmas Carol" lives on and people everywhere rejoice that this is a glad occasion. The event that it celebrates is holy but the happiness occasioned is most properly spread throughout our family, business and social lives. There should indeed be joy unconfined.

Youthful Linguists

An American teacher and author has observed that the average child between 4 and 6 years of age can learn to speak several languages simultaneously without interfering with his ability to master his native tongue. At the same time Canada's National Research Council was told by Dr. Wilder Penfield, O. M., that children under ten can learn two or three languages as easily as one. From the age of one to ten or fourteen the speech areas of the brain are in a highly receptive state.

These opinions suggest that our whole approach to the teaching of languages requires to be altered. Perhaps something in the nature of educational foreign-language motion pictures could be provided to enable youngsters to hear and see simple conversations and situations. Even before they reached the usual school age they might well be able to take part in conversation in several languages.

If the opinions are correct it is quite wrong to postpone the learning of languages other than English until the higher grades. That delay, in fact, assures that a very considerable number of students will never know foreign languages as anything but a course which they took—in English.

The Berlin Conference

The international spotlight now moves from Bermuda to Berlin. It is a considerable achievement, notes a British commentator, to have induced the Russians at last to agree to come into a conference about Germany for the first time in six years, but that is no more than the beginning. What is going to happen at the Four Power meeting in Berlin on January 4? That must depend very largely on Mr. Molotov. The three Western Ministers will go prepared to enter into serious negotiations for a settlement on Germany and for final conclusion of the long-delayed Austrian Treaty. Obviously these will be matters on which it is impossible to compromise. Obviously it will be impossible to agree to any arrangement which the West Germans would reject and refuse to implement. But all the same, if the Russians come with the same serious intention, it might prove possible to find some sort of modus vivendi which would at any rate reduce tension and pave the way for a final settlement.

But if the Russians come with no intention of seriously trying to reach agreement on the German and Austrian questions, but determine instead to force discussion of all sorts of extraneous issues which they may hope will produce division and dissension amongst the Western Powers, then the Berlin Conference will be foredoomed to the fate of the 1947 meetings of the Council of Foreign Ministers in Moscow and London. Both contingencies were considered at Bermuda. Detailed discussions by experts of the Three Powers to consider what line should be taken

in the various circumstances are starting almost at once, after which we can only wait and hope that the Bermuda Conference will have fruitful results at Berlin. The three participating Governments in the former conference are now in entire agreement about the future shape and nature of NATO programs in what may be called the second phase of rearmament—the phase in which the urgent high-speed rearmament of the past two or three years can be replaced by a steadier and less intensive program spread over a longer period.

Praise Better Than Censure

A young man whose skull was fractured as the result of an accident was told when he began to convalesce that during the surgical operation his brain had been visible. "Please write to my father and tell him about it," he said to his doctor, "for he always said I had no brains." The story is probably apocryphal. Nevertheless, it contains a good moral.

Parents who would never harm their children in any physical manner think nothing of telling them they are stupid and will never amount to anything. Actually this is a form of injury even more serious than the physical sort because usually it does not heal so readily. A child who hears about his faults and deficiencies day after day is almost certain eventually to lose the self-confidence and buoyant energy which are so valuable in the building of character and in the development of a well-balanced personality. There is, of course, a place for censure for that, too, is a part of life and every child must learn to meet it. In no sense, however, is it as helpful as an occasional word of praise even when the child's achievements are small and seemingly unimportant.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Tomorrow, the 4th Sunday in Advent, the Sunday before Christmas.

Christmas parties are the order of the day. There are of course, parties throughout the year but somehow they do not approach in gaiety those being held at this season.

The Salvation Army bell sounds cheerfully through the wintry air and the money dropped in the Christmas pail sounds a similarly cheerful note for many to whom Christmas might otherwise be bleak.

The present situation of Canada's Merchant Navy, if it can still be so called, is far from satisfactory. The Government's stand prevents much of our present shipping from being sold abroad but there is no indication that an efficient and profitable merchant fleet will be developed.

Visitors to Britain are familiar with the incentive to buy provided by the system of making purchases tax-free for tourists. The proposal of the Canadian Exporters' Association to adopt a similar practice here might well indeed bring in an additional \$2,000,000,000 in sales as claimed.

Although placing only third in number of telephones and in number of telephones per hundred persons, Canada has again led the world in the average number of calls placed per person. Canadians averaged 388.7 calls compared with 382.1 for Americans and 360.1 for Icelanders. When there is a phone at hand it seems that Canadians are determined to use it.

Joseph Mallord William Turner, English landscape painter, died this date 1851. He was the son of a barber and his early education was much neglected. He entered the Royal Academy School, however, and later had the good fortune to study in the home of Sir Joshua Reynolds. He travelled a good deal but spent most of his life in London. He visited Scotland in order to illustrate a new edition of Scott's poems.

Beautification of the roads as desired by the Community Planning Association requires a different approach from that of years ago. The pleasant, tree and flower-bordered country roads have given place to wide and built-up highways with plenty of clearance. It is the distant view that must now be taken into consideration, particularly as modern speeds make it difficult to pay attention to anything close to the highway.

That the Soviet Union is entitled to assurances against aggression after what she suffered at Hitler's hands is the view of Prime Minister Churchill. The piling up of armament, consideration of "preventive war" and general uncertainty can be traced very largely to fears of aggression. It cannot be sufficiently emphasized that the measures being taken by the North Atlantic Community are defensive and have aggressive motive.

All I Want For Christmas



Old Charlottetown

(And P. E. I.)

ANNEXATION DISCUSSED

"On Thursday evening, the 18th ult., the question of the annexation of our Government to that of Nova Scotia was discussed by the Prince-Edward Royalty Debating Society. Against the idea of the annexation nearly the whole of the Society spoke, and all voted. It was argued that in the cases of Cape Breton and Ireland we have sufficient proof of the evil tendency of such measures; since the inhabitants of both these places are loud in their clamours for the repeal of their existing unions, and either of them is thriving as it would under an Imperial Government and domestic legislation because deprived of a fair participation in the rights and privileges of the constitution; and a similar measure would involve us in similar consequences.

"They also maintained, that the reduction of our representation, probably to 7, and these a very small minority in the Legislature, and also nearly unimportant amongst the distinguished Legislature of Nova Scotia, would be nearly equal to depriving us of our representation altogether, and would place us completely at the mercy of Nova Scotians, who would appropriate our resources to their own use, impose severe penalties upon us to advance their internal improvement, and fill our public offices with natives of that country, to the neglect of our own inhabitants, and to the prejudice of justice; that consequently our roads and bridges would be neglected, our harbours without wharves, our schools unprovided for, and every part of our internal improvement hindered.

"They furthermore argued, that the laws of Nova Scotia were in many cases unsuitable to our circumstances, and in others oppressive,—such, for instance, as the Poor Laws and the Statute Lab-our Law. And as the climate of all the evils attendant on such a measure, they mentioned on such a measure, consequence to result from the loss to the Island of the present Civil List, paid by the Home Government, as well as a large part of our own resources expended in paying officers who would then no longer exist in the Island; together with the entire loss of the annual expenditure of married gentlemen, at present residing in the Island, who would immediately, in the event of the supposed union with Nova Scotia, abandon it."

—The Palladium, May 2, 1844.

The Age Old Story

Behold, the days come, saith the Lord, that I will raise up unto David a righteous Branch, and a King shall reign and prosper, and shall execute judgment and justice in the earth. In his days Judah shall be saved, and Israel shall dwell safely; and this is his name whereby he shall be called, the Lord our righteousness.



Reddin Bros. DIAL 4386 L. M. Doucette R. M. Smallman

Notes By The Way

A little magazine of Canadian poetry is making its first appearance in print with "the fiddlehead" which sets forth in conventional form from Fredericton, New Brunswick. It is not exactly "the fiddlehead's" first appearance in any form. The Bliss Carman Poetry Society, whose home is in Fredericton has for some time been publishing in that name in mimeographed form a little magazine—almost a pamphlet—of poems contributed by its members. With the suspension from publication of "Contemporary Verse" one of Canada's very few publications devoted to Canadian poetry (to our shame be it said) the publishers of "the fiddlehead" have decided to do their very best to make up the loss.

The much-talked-about Shakespearean Festival at Stratford, Ont., last summer was a success, and because of this it is quite natural that it should be tried a second time. The committee is already at work, preparing a program of plays and music which should be at least as entertaining as last year, with every opportunity of being better. In its first year, the festival's survival depended on its initial popularity—and to some degree the enthusiasm of its financial sponsors. But from now on its survival sticks to its aims. It is not the intention to permit the repertoire to degenerate into a charivari for the masses, but that a serious standard be maintained for all those who would reach toward it in the interests of a developing Canadian theatre.

We won't attempt to explain this but we can't resist commenting on it. A city haberdasher just a few days ago ran a newspaper advertisement featuring two tailored shirts. These shirts were identical except for size, and the artist had sketched from them most attractively: a tall, Greek-god type of man was wearing one, and a small, curly-haired woman was gracefully currying the other. As history shows, women often are persuaded by subtly different routes of reasoning which can't always be fathomed by mere men. Occasionally a man is found who takes these subtle differences into account. Our haberdasher is one of these rare beings. At the bottom of his ad he had priced the shirts thusly: His, \$11.00. Hers, \$10.95.

The Poet's Corner

THE OLD SONG When all the world is young, lad, And all the trees are green; And every goose a swan, lad, And every lass a queen; Then hey for boot and horse, lad, And round the world away; Young blood must have its course, lad, And every dog his day. When all the world is old, lad, And all the trees are brown; And all the spires are stale, lad, And all the wheels run down; Creep home, and take your place there, The spent and maimed among; God grant you find one face there You loved when all was young. —Charles Kingsley.

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Men's Station Wagon Coats, Bomber Jackets and Overcoats ALL SPECIALLY PRICED

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The Passing Scene

By Observer INDIFFERENCE AND CIVIL DEFENCE

"Organized haste will save you, and panic will destroy you." This terse statement appears in an address on Civil Defence delivered by President Eisenhower at a meeting of American mayors. The advice it contains is just as valuable for Canadians as for Americans. From time to time reports have appeared in the press of both countries that the situation with respect to civil defence is not as satisfactory as it ought to be. Officially, many measures have been introduced and they are being improved upon daily. The "bottleneck" seems to be in the attitude of the public and, of course, no measures, however technically efficient, will be of very much value unless their efficiency can be matched by popular interest and co-operation. It is a fact that, despite appeals, urgings and warnings that have come from civil defence officials and others, there is still a good deal of indifference in this matter and it can be traced mainly to psychological factors. To begin with, a lot of people seem unable to distinguish between defensive measures and offensive ones. This idea is similar to that that hinders the man who refuses to take out life insurance because he believes that in some mysterious manner this sort of protection would shorten his life, and, by the woman who refuses to take an umbrella along because that would almost certainly be an invitation to rain.

Another contributing factor—partly psychological and partly geographical—is the fact that this far Americans and Canadians have been able to defend themselves on soil far from home. Our knowledge of atomic weapons notwithstanding, we are unable to grasp the full implications of the atomic age. Our knowledge tells us that in the event of this earth being safe from attack. For all that, we like to dwell in the illusion that, somehow, "it won't happen here." This is a plain case of the wish being father to the thought. Incidentally, psychiatrists say that this mental attitude is one of the very common obstacles in the way of treatment for various forms of neurotic instability.

Then again, there is the comfortable view that attack, if and when it comes, will by-pass certain centres and areas. The man living in Boston, for example believes that New York will be the main target. The New Yorker thinks it will be Detroit or San Francisco. Ten chances to one, people in Toronto believe that Halifax will take the brunt, and Halifax in Halifax are reasonably sure that Montreal will come first. This is a psychological trait as old as the human race. Lightning may hit my neighbour's house but it isn't likely to hit mine. I suppose it is logical to assume that in the event of an atomic attack or any other kind of aerial attack there are some sections which would be by-passed for the simple reason they are of no great military importance. According to this assumption this island would be comparatively safe. Unfortunately, however, assumptions look very good on paper sometimes have an annoying habit of confounding the theorists. The truth is that in modern warfare every place of direct or indirect military importance it ought not to be forgotten that, while the forces of the Nazi blitz was directed at London and other big cities, a great many bombs were dropped, by design or accident, on provincial towns and even on the open countryside. No one can predict beforehand what a ruthless aggressor would do in any given circumstance. In any case, a bomb meant for Halifax, let us say, could very easily as a result of a little miscalculation fall on Charlottetown or Souris or Tignish.

There is still another psychological factor—very widespread—which doubtless is posing a problem for civil defence authorities. This is the attitude that in view of the destructive qualities of newer bombs, nothing that civilians could possibly do would be of any practical benefit. If this state of mind had prevailed in England in 1940 Hitler would have won the war there and then. And this deduction does not lose any of its validity by reason of the fact that atomic bombs would be a thousand times more destructive than anything that fell over London. This is, of course, very true, but it must be remembered that defensive measures and detection devices also have undergone tremendous improvement. Obviously, what defence authorities in this country and in the United States are trying to do is to build up in the minds of all citizens now a need for what Mr. Eisenhower calls "organized haste" which would go a long way towards preventing panic in the future, should war break out unexpectedly.

No one in any position of responsibility is suggesting that war is inevitable. Everybody who reads the papers or listens to the radio knows that it is possible. Civil Defence, or that part of it which directly concerns the civilian population, is nothing more and nothing less than some measure of insurance against some contingency one can amount to anything worthwhile public indifference in the various forms will have to be broken down. TASMAN LED WAY New Zealand was discovered in 1642 by the Dutch navigator Abel Tasman, 130 years before Cook explored its shores.

In the midst of Success you may suffer Disaster

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