

THE GUARDIAN

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Editor and Managing Director, J. M. Burnett Associate Editor, Frank Walker. "The Strongest Memory is Weaker Than the Weakest Ink"

CHARLOTTETOWN FRIDAY, JAN. 5, 1951

Life Insurance On Increase

The fact that we are becoming more and more conscious of the value of life insurance as the major source of family security is evident in the year-end statement of Mr. Gordon C. Cumming, president of the Canadian Life Insurance Officers Association. During the past year Canadians have added some \$1,750,000,000 of new protection. Total life insurance protection in force in Canada in the 60-odd British, United States and Canadian companies doing business in this country will reach an estimated amount of \$15,750,000,000 at the year end. This represents an increase of about 8 per cent, after allowing for the effect of the year's new business and deducting death claims and other terminations, over the record volume in force established in 1949.

There is also an ever-increasing volume of insurance money paid out in policy benefits. During 1950 it is estimated that Canadians will have received, in the form of benefits from their life insurance companies, an amount approximating \$250,000,000. This total also sets a new record for money so distributed, being about 7 per cent greater than the 1949 payments.

A large part of the premium income and of the proceeds from the sale of Government bonds in many companies has been used to provide money for home builders in the form of mortgages. The trend away from Federal Government issues, an important investment channel for the companies during the war years, has continued. Important changes have been made in the Federal insurance laws widening the investment powers of the companies, which will help to increase the companies' earned interest rates, and thus have an important bearing on the cost of life insurance to policyholders.

The menace of inflation is strongly emphasized in Mr. Cumming's report. "The fact that life insurance companies take in dollars and pay out dollars and that, therefore, their solvency is not affected by price inflation," he says, "affords little satisfaction to company managements which see the purchasing power of the dollars paid out by them in benefits decreasing just about as fast as the volume of life insurance protection is increasing. That fact also affords very little satisfaction to policy holders who can see the proceeds of their policies buying less than they had expected. Measured in terms of purchasing power, Canadians enjoy less life insurance protection per capita today than they did five years ago, notwithstanding the increased volume of business transacted by the companies and the best efforts of their field forces."

The five million Canadians who own life insurance have a particular reason for urging the Government to fight inflation courageously and effectively. It would be a national tragedy to win the battle against Communism and lose the war against inflation. It was Lenin, the prophet of modern Communism, who is credited with saying that the best way to destroy a country is to debauch its currency.

No Time For Reclamation

Ex-President Herbert Hoover's appeal to Americans to abandon both Europe and Asia, and to concentrate their efforts upon making the United States an impregnable fortress to withstand the icy blast of Communism, has been seized upon as marking a rebirth of the isolationist sentiment which bedeviled American foreign policy in the thirties.

That Mr. Hoover's remarks reflect a growing body of opinion in the United States is substantiated by the observations of Mr. Walter Lippmann. That such an attitude of mind should emerge from the bitter disillusionment of Korea, and the confusion regarding the re-arming of Germany, is understandable. It is difficult for ordinary folk whose sons are dying in Oriental battlefields to realize that freedom is indivisible, and that what happens in Korea today, can happen on the North American continent tomorrow unless we stand united.

What is deplorable is the fact that an elder statesman of Mr. Hoover's calibre should have permitted himself to become the mouthpiece of party politicians trying to make capital out of the present plight.

To say more than that, from this side of the border, would be to invite recriminations of the sort which have no place among friendly allies in time of great dan-

ger. For, as The Ottawa Journal points out, this country's record in the last six months is not without an isolationist flavor.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Building operations are at a high rate and show every sign of continuing so unless braked by restrictive regulations.

When Soviet newspapers report growing war hysteria in the United States, they mean Stalin is doing his best to provoke a "hot" war on top of his "cold" war.

The Week of Prayer continues to be observed by large attendances of worshippers. Tonight will be the concluding session to be held in Zion Church.

Reports of the slaughter of Chinese Communist troops and of their seemingly limitless numbers give force to the old expression, "cannon fodder".

The rearmament of Germany and possibly of Japan would have seemed the height of folly a few years ago, but a relatively remote risk may well have to be taken in the face of immediate danger.

The dirt roads will be practically unusable for heavy traffic until the frost sets in. Here is where the farmers on the hard-surfaced main thoroughfares have the advantage; and soon presumably all will be in that happy position.

The Canadian Broadcasting Corporation is providing free political broadcasts to each of the three provincial political parties in the present year, the Liberals to have 13, the Progressive Conservatives 11, and the C. C. F. 9. This means the Government foots the bill.

Mr. J. Watson MacNaught, M.P., grows in political stature. His experience as parliamentary assistant to the Minister of Fisheries, and politically educational attendance at the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association meeting should serve him in good stead in public life.

The system of courts in this Province, or rather the lack of a system resulting from piecemeal legislation, requires study and revision. One of the more obvious improvements that could be made is a change in name for the Supreme Court to avoid confusion with the Supreme Court of Canada, which is now in fact supreme.

Religious sentiments are not always to be found in the descendants of distinguished hymn writers and authors. Here is an instance, worth chronicling: Six-hundred guineas has been contributed to the £90,000 appeal fund for the restoration of Manchester Cathedral by two descendants of John Byron, author of the hymn "Christians Awake".

Sir Ernest Shackleton, British Antarctic explorer, died this date 1922. Started his career in merchant ship service, and was appointed third lieutenant in Scott's Antarctic Expedition in 1901. Six years later he commanded the British Expedition and in 1914-16 he revisited the Arctic Circle. His publications include "The Heart of the Antarctic", "The Diary of a Troopship" and "South".

The Ottawa Journal expresses surprise at a Dominion Bureau of Statistics report that the over-all milk supply is actually declining. It recognizes that a serious situation already has developed in this country considering that both population and industrial production have been increasing while this drop has been taking place. The explanation is not far to seek.

According to a debate in the House of Lords, in the event of war, Britain may be deprived of its newspapers. Lord Rothermere pointed out that "if what he called an emergency arose, we should be cut off from Scandinavian supplies, and, in the absence of adequate Canadian supplies, would have nothing but our stockpile to draw on. In that event, in three months there would be no newspapers produced anywhere in Great Britain." Lord Rothermere made telling use of the effect on Canadian opinion of the "hasty and drastic" decision taken in January, not to import any more Canadian newsprint in the first six months of this year. He urged the Government to help the Newsprint Supply Company to negotiate new contracts and to put the situation right with Canada. Lord Brand dwelt feelingly on the vital importance of securing that the British electorate should be educated in world affairs. It was now almost impossible for the ordinary big circulation daily newspaper to give anything like the news about the world which the British public should have.

The Technique



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.

MAORI GIRL SEEKS PEN PAL

Sir,—When I was in New Zealand I met and talked to many Maori girls and boys. One of these girls, Miss Yvonne Hawkins, Box 6, Wairoa, Hawkes Bay, New Zealand, asked me if I could get her a pen pal in Canada. I told her that when I returned to Prince Edward Island I would ask some boys and girls to commence a correspondence with her. I do hope that some boy or girl from Prince Edward Island will be kind enough to write to her. She is most intelligent and I am sure that she will faithfully answer all letters written to her.

She was particularly interested in Canada because her grandfather came from Canada many years ago. I was glad to note that there was very little racial prejudice and certainly no racial discrimination in New Zealand. One finds Maori girls and boys working side by side with white girls and boys in the offices and in the factories. The only standard was ability to do the job and my impression was that the Maoris could hold their own with the whites in any trade or profession. I am, Sir, etc., J. WATSON MACNAUGHT, M.P. Summerside.

IMPRESSIONS OF HIS EXCELLENCY'S RECEPTION

Sir,—New Year's Day in Charlottetown dawned bright, with snow freshly fallen during the night of New Year's Eve. The Diocesan Episcopal Palace never looked more impressive. One ponders while ascending the steps of this architectural gem of symmetrical beauty. On the steps, also entering the beautiful carved stone entrance, was the beloved physician, who happens to hold the highest honour possible for a layman to receive from His Holiness the Pope. This Province is surely blessed beyond compare. One remembers that in April, 1916, the Conservative member from Tignish was the first layman to receive such recognition in this Province, namely the late Sir Charles Dalton.

The charm of the reception was enhanced by His Excellency's gracious manner together with that of the newly appointed Chancellor of the Diocese, Rev. Father MacDonald, and the ever popular Rector, Rev. Dr. McMahon, who since his return to this historic Diocese of Charlottetown from the Eternal City has been a friend to all creeds.

I am, Sir, etc., VICTORIAN, CHARLOTTETOWN.

FARMERS' NEEDS

Sir,—Two industries are growing in our Province. One is the importing and "punishing" of beverage alcohol. The other is the gathering and exporting of Christmas trees. These trees grow on land that had been cultivated, but has lain idle for ten years or more. The owners of these farms, finding it impossible to make a living, have gone to Ontario or the U.S.A.

Two conditions may contribute to this failure, one a "let down", the other, our Government system. As for the latter, we know that our representatives are not elected by the people, but by the wealthy corporations. Both parties hold out their hands for real cash to build up election funds. In doing so they barter away their power and right to frame our economic laws. They then remain powerless to restrain the railways, machine companies and grain dealers from exploiting the farmer and general public. No doubt the remedy is within our reach.

I also spoke of a moral condition that is driving many into poverty and from the old homesteads. I mean slavery to the cigarette. An average smoker spends two hundred dollars a year for this luxury, when we include the valuable time spent in "rolling", etc. A person fond of reading is less liable to fall a victim. I wrote before of the vendors bottle at the week-end. I notice that the thought of it is never absent from the mind. This enslavement of manhood is more fatal to success than anything that a corrupt Government might do to us. Give me a family who practice

Escape Value

(The Nation, New York)

If these were normal times, we could work up as much indignation as anyone at the President's gross behavior toward the music critic who wrote unflatteringly of Margaret Truman's singing. If the President were not weighed down by decisions that mean life or death for millions, we might even share the views of Westbrook Pegler and the Russian press that his vituperative diatribe was a revelation of "nasty malice" and deficient moral sense. If this were not the same Pegler who hoped the attempted assassination of the President would "be a lesson" to him and remarked that he was "rather shocked nor horrified, we might have felt that Mr. Truman was undignified, though not inaccurate, in referring to the Hearst columnist as a "guttersnipe". We find some of the President's highly publicized correspondence — the letter about the marines, the reply to Representative Hebert, and the note to the music critic — profoundly disturbing, not because of the unjudiciousness, the folly and the arrogance they seem to indicate, but because they show all too clearly the crushing burden under which he is forced to carry on. If there nonsensical outbursts serve as an escape valve, they are worth the price they cost the nation in embarrassment. Better the abuse of an innocent — and, in this case, gallant and understanding — music critic than an explosion in the realm of high policy that could push the world closer to the awful brink of war.

Circus Mystery

(Owen Sound Sun-Times)

One of the final chapters in a tragedy that shocked the world more than six years ago is now being written in Hartford, Conn. It was in Hartford on July 6, 1944, that fire swept a huge circus tent and in a matter of moments, resulted in the deaths of 168 men, women and children. The fire forced the circus into receivership but its assets were sufficient to provide funds to meet death and injury claims of \$3,046,355.70, filed by 676 claimants. Cheques for the final 1-2 per cent are being mailed out this week.

A mystery in connection with this circus fire has never been solved. One of the victims, whose body was recovered totally unscathed, was a beautiful little girl about seven or eight years of age. She was well-dressed and apparently had always been well nourished and well cared for. And yet she was never identified and her body was never claimed, although it was embalmed and kept available for several years by Hartford authorities.

The theory was held for some time that all other members of the little girl's family might have also perished in the holocaust, but as later identifications were made, this theory was found to be without basis. Even if it had been the case, it was felt that surely someone would recognize the child — teachers, Sunday School teachers, merchants, bus drivers, street conductors or other people who, one way or another, see many children every day.

UNLUCKY CALL

FORT WILLIAM, Ont. —(CP) — A senior clerk was cautioned and fined costs in court here for striking a junior clerk. The blow was struck after the junior called the senior a "bonehead" because the senior criticised him for telephoning at 7 a. m. with an office question.

self-control, whose brains are always clear, nerves steady and hearts beating in a regular way until 80 or 90 years are attained, and their progeny will possess the earth, even if the bondage that we are in to the multi-millionaires exceeds that of Pharaoh over the Israelites.

I have pictured to you a model family, from a physical and mental standpoint. Let Robbie Burns speak to us from the "Cotters Saturday Night". What did Robbie see? Just a living faith in God, as shown in the prayer habit and knowledge of His' book. "From scenes like these Auld Scotia's grandeur springs. . . An honest man's the noblest work of God." I am, Sir, etc., J. A. MacKENZIE, Kensington.

The Poet's Corner

REVELLE

Wake: the silver dusk returning Up the beach of darkness briars, And the ship of sunrise burning Strands upon the eastern rims.

Wake: the vaulted shadow shatters, Trampled to the floor it spanned, And the tent of night in letters Straws the sky-pavilioned land.

Up, lad, up, 'tis late for lying: Hear the drums of morning play: Hark the empty highways crying 'Who'll beyond the hills away?'

Towns and countries woo together. Forelands beacon, bellies call; Never lad that trod on leather Lived to feast his heart with all.

Clay lies still, but blood's a rover; Breath's a war that will not keep. Up, lad; when the journey's over There'll be time enough to sleep.

—A. E. Housman.

Old Charlottetown

(And P. E. I.)

Y. M. C. A. LIBRARY

"In the course of the past week, the Hon. Colonel Gray, in addition to a handsome contribution to the special fund of the Association, has presented 100 volumes, comprising history, biography, poetry, etc., and including a valuable Atlas, to the Association Library about to be formed. The gallant Colonel has supplied an excellent nucleus for a Library, around which it may be hoped that, in a few years, other works will be gathered, until the Association may boast of a large collection of books of great intrinsic value, and fitted to exert a wholesome influence upon the minds of all who have access to them."

—The Islander, April 3, 1868.

The Age-Old Story

John to the seven churches which are in Asia: Grace be unto you, and peace, from him which is, and which was, and which is to come; and from the seven Spirits which are before his throne; and from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness and the first begotten of the dead, and the prince of the kings of the earth. Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood, and hath made us kings and priests unto God and his Father; to him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen. . . I was in the Spirit on the Lord's day, and heard behind me a great voice, as of a trumpet, saying, I am Alpha and Omega, the first and the last; and what thou seest, write in a book, and send it unto the seven churches which are in Asia. . . and I turned to see the voice that spake with me. And being turned, I saw seven golden candlesticks; and in the midst of the seven candlesticks one like unto the Son of man, clothed with a garment down to the foot, and girt about the paps with a golden girdle. . . And when I saw him, I fell at his feet as dead. And he laid his right hand upon me, saying unto me, Fear not; I am the first and the last; I am he that liveth, and was dead; and behold, I am alive for evermore. Amen.

BOOST WOOD CUT

KIRKLAND LAKE, Ont. —(CP) — Favorable conditions of the spring market for dressed lumber have prompted some local lumber dealers to double their cut compared with last year. Majority of lumber cut here goes to markets in Toronto, Montreal and New York.

STABLE MONEY

The Brazilian cruzero was first fixed at a rate of 18.38 to the U. S. dollar in 1938.

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Notes By The Way

A number of Canadian silver maple trees will be planted in Churchhill avenue, Westarham, Kent, as a link with General Wolfe, who was born in the village, and as a tribute to the Canadian forces stationed locally during the war. This project is part of the local Festival of Britain Activities. U. K. Information Office.

One of the less publicized hardships of the year's end is an overpowering geyser of prosperity statistics from Ottawa. All sorts of tokens are flashed from the haunts of Parliament Hill to tell the average Canadian how well off he is — with just a little more than a hint that government manoeuvring has been largely responsible for his welfare. — Hamilton Spectator.

Huntsville conservationists are up in arms over the action of their chief constable who ordered the shooting of a large snowy owl which was perched upon the pinnacle of a church tower. In his own defence, the chief explains he ordered the shooting because the owl menaced a flock of pigeons near the church. Before the controversy dies down, the Huntsville chief constable will have received considerable information on the habits and benefits of the snowy owl, as stacked up against an ordinary pigeon. — Sudbury Star.

The Coronation Stone of the old Saxon kings is coming in for its belated share of attention as a result of the theft of the historic Stone of Scone. Less legend is woven around this Scottish counterpane but, as far as England is concerned, the former is more historic. Edward I was the first English king to be crowned on the Stone of Scone. But early Saxon kings were crowned on the other. The latter stood for a long time in St. Mary's Chapel in Kingston-upon-Thames. But after that building fell down in 1730, the Saxon Coronation Stone was removed to a site in the market place. There it still stands today, surrounded by a low fence. It would be more difficult to carry off this ancient stone for it is much heavier than the Stone of Scone. But one thing in favor of a theft is its accessibility. There would be no need to break out of a building for the stone lies in the open and through the years has become somewhat weathered. No chances are being taken, however.

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