

THE GUARDIAN

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

THURSDAY, OCT. 7, 1954

Under False Colours

The premium which Prince Edward Island potatoes command on many markets because of their reputation for quality seems to be too much of a temptation for some operators in Quebec.

The hard earned reputation of our potatoes would not long survive a wide-spread adoption of the practice. Producers, dealers, the Potato Marketing Board and Islanders generally have a strong interest in seeing that this form of misrepresentation is dealt with promptly and effectively.

Mr. Ellis suggests that either shippers refrain from using in Quebec the familiar bags stamped with the name of Prince Edward Island, or else that potato agencies employ a representative at important terminal points to protect the interests of the industry here.

This is a matter in which anyone having knowledge of abuses has a responsibility. It should not be possible for the deception to occur with the knowledge of any of our citizens, private or in the public service, without it being brought very much to light.

Pharmacy Week

All this week the druggists or pharmacists of this country have been making an extra effort to remind the public of the service they render to the community and the complexity of the task with which they are faced.

The medical profession depends upon the pharmacists to supply exactly what is prescribed in precisely the required amounts and of a high degree of purity.

The profession is both subject to exacting governmental rules and restrictions and at the same time requires a very high standard of professional conduct on the part of its members.

Historic Soil

"See you 'our pastures wide and lone, Where the red oxen brouse? O there was a City thronged and known Ere London boasted a house."

Thus sang Kipling of England's historic past; and many other lines from "Puck's Song" will be recalled in connection with the latest archaeological find in the soil around Caerleon on the River Usk in southwest England.

The Nova Scotian driver who did a bit of speeding in Ontario will find that he cannot drive at 80 m.p.h. at home either. His impression that there is no speed limit in Nova Scotia was corrected by the registrar of motor vehicles who explained that, "Our limit is that which is reasonable and prudent for existing conditions, with a prima facie limit of 40 m.p.h."

Christian Rudolph de Wet, Boer general and statesman, was born this date 1854. Experienced in war and statecraft, he was probably the most formidable of all the Boer guerrillas.

the modern cities of York and Chester now stand.

Architecturally, the Caerleon establishment followed the usual military design of the times—a large oblong enclosure, with rounded corners and four entrances. It contained barracks, offices, stores and a central regimental headquarters.

The near-by settlement now emerging from the fields is expected to offer an outstanding opportunity for study, since it escaped the destruction and overbuilding that occurred at other important sites as later towns grew up.

Roman roads can still be seen stretching across open country-side. Radiating from London, some are buried beneath highways that link modern successors of the old Latin centers.

Year by year new discoveries are being made. Plowing has turned up some, like the treasure of Roman silver from the fourth century unearthed in 1942 at Mildenhall, Suffolk.

EDITORIAL NOTES

A hunting-accident fatality reported from Quebec indicates that the victim used his gun as a prop while getting to his feet after going under a fence.

Not a great deal of time is available for would-be entrants in the Prince Edward Island drama festival. With October 15 and November 22 set up for registration and performance respectively, Island dramatic groups will have to step out and step lively.

The decision to admit Japan to the Colombo plan as a donor country has considerable attraction. Of the 14 present members, all five donor countries are outside of Asia.

The remarkable strides made in mineral production in Canada is indicated by the report of the directors of the Ontario Mining Association. Emphasis is given to the record of that Province but the whole picture is not unduly distorted.

The relationship of private business to government competition was discussed at the Canadian Chamber of Commerce meeting at Halifax. Canadians have exceptionally wide experience in this matter.

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A Left-Handed Compliment

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.

FEDERAL POWERS

Sir,—On the 22nd of last month I addressed a letter to the Premier of each of the Provinces in which I stated that, in my opinion, under the provisions of the 1949 amendment to the British North America Act, the Federal Government, in effect, is the sole master of both the Constitution of Canada and of the Provinces, and, therefore, any future federal-provincial constitutional conference would partake of the nature of a useless, if not farcical, procedure.

If what I say is correct, then the Federal Government may by a stroke of the pen (guiding the hand of its majority in the House of Commons) deprive the Provinces of every vestige of right or power which they may possess, change the federal structure of our country and adopt any form of government they please. I do not intend this statement to be taken as a metaphor or figure of speech.

As a Canadian citizen, I am prepared to demonstrate to any one, anywhere in Canada, the legal correctness of my assertion—that is really what matters since the court, not the partisan politician, is to apply the law—in a public discussion under any form at all: public meeting, debate, radio, television, press, convention, conference, interview. I would even submit to personal cross-examination.

I am, Sir, etc., JOHN FENSTON, LL.B., LL.M. Verdun, Que.

MARITIME INDUSTRIES

Sir,—Maritimers have just learned that at last an earnest effort is being put forth by Maritime government and business leaders to improve the economy of our four Atlantic Provinces through the newly formed Atlantic Provinces Economic Council. Even if this co-operative action is being launched fifty years too late, it should now be welcomed by all—for we have not felt the need for "a better deal" and none will fail to benefit from the possible results. We would all do well to bear in mind that each one of us has a part to play if the goals for which this Council is aiming are to be achieved.

Too long have we lacked faith in ourselves as an important part of our great nation. Too long have we allowed our resources of raw materials, brain and brawn to be used in the development of Central Canada and regions beyond, instead of our own Provinces. Too long have we believed the "imported" article (from anywhere) to be better than our own products, just because it is brought to the Maritimes.

I am, Sir, etc., H. A. MACDONALD Sunny Brae, N. S.

FARMING ON P. E. ISLAND SIXTY YEARS AGO

Sir,—In the early days I was a farmer. Then there was no machinery. Nothing to cost a lot of money. Nothing to go wrong. My first bit of farming was in the burnt woods. Father and I put in the potatoes with a hoe among the big hardwood stumps. Three sets a hill and rounded up with a hoe. But that was a crop. They grew over three feet high and off that patch of about one-eighth of an acre we had two good cart loads, and they were white and clean, splendid potatoes.

The scythe was the grain-reaper. We had a neighbor who was a farmer. He had about thirty acres of oats, and his two daughters bound and stooked after him. In memory I can see that old man swinging his scythe day after day till the harvest was done. Then the reaper came into use and we bound after it, and stooked up at night. One fall I helped to bind and stand up fifteen hundred stooks.

The Age Old Story

How beautiful upon the mountain are the feet of him that bringeth good tidings, that publisheth peace; that bringeth good tidings of good, that publisheth salvation; that saith unto Zion, Thy God reigneth!

Threshing comes next. I saw the flail used. A slow and arduous process. Then came a real power machine, the tread-mill, attached to a threshing with a drum full of teeth. It threshed fast. I followed this machine through the community for five or six falls.

And you O my soul where you stand, Surrounded, detached, in measureless oceans of space, Ceaselessly musing, venturing, throwing, seeking the spheres to connect them, Till the bridge you will need be form'd, till the ductile anchor hold, Till the gossamer thread you fling catch somewhere, O my soul.

—Walt Whitman.

The Poet's Corner

THE SPIDER

A noiseless patient spider, I mark'd where on a little promontory it stood isolated, Mark'd how to explore the vacant vast surrounding, It launch'd forth filament, filament, filament, out of itself, Ever unreeling them, ever tirelessly speeding them.

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—Walt Whitman.

Old Charlottetown

and P. E. I.

LATIN MADE EASY

"The District School of Pinette, under the tuition of the Rev. John McLennan, numbers 30 scholars average attendance. The course of instruction in this school embraces the ordinary and most useful branches of a general English education, in addition to the Latin language. The successful results of Mr. McLennan's laborious vocation are evidenced in the proficiency attained by those children whose attendance has been in any way regular; the pupils of the higher Latin class translate and display an accurate and extensive knowledge of the construction thereof.

The beneficial effects of the judicious method followed out here of thoroughly grounding the learners in the rudiments of the respective branches is also deserving of notice. Without this no real proficiency can be attained, and although in the first instance apparently retarding, seldom falls in rendering the subsequent progress of the scholar easy. The reading department particularly has that primary importance assigned to it in this school of which it is deserving, and great pains are taken to make the children acquire a correct pronunciation, quick and accurate knowledge of orthography, in opposition to the practice of too many instructors of youth, who overlook these details as of minor consideration. The reverend gentleman has now, for upwards of two years, at considerable sacrifice, devoted his time and attention almost gratuitously to the intellectual and moral improvement of the youth of this district of his parish."

—From a report to the Board of Education by Mr. John MacNeill, District Schools Visitor, Jan. 23, 1841.

I feel certain that the confusion was not caused by our much respected farmers. With due respect for Mr. Matheson and all his said regarding the Marketing Board, I still maintain that he has made a serious mistake, and one that he will find hard to correct with any degree of fairness or satisfaction to our people, in placing the Board's marketing policy in abeyance until after the plebiscite is taken. In my opinion he might have used the word "padding" the Marketing Board for a month or two. That space of time would give the dealers an opportunity to control the potato movement from Prince Edward Island as far as the 1954 crop is concerned. That is apparently what was wanted and that is evidently what the Premier and his colleagues have giving the right to do.

I am, Sir, etc., W. B. McLELLAN Aims, P.E.I.

THE POTATO PLEBISCITE

Sir,—I was one person that constituted, if counted, the many thousands attending the meeting called by the Federation of Agriculture at the Forum in Charlottetown Sept. 29 to hear the chairman and manager of the P. E. I. Potato Marketing Board, Mr. Donald A. MacDonald, explain the Board policy for the marketing of the 1954 potato crop, that means so much to our people. The sound equipment seemed to be in good working order, and I know, 7 hearing is normal, and from where I sat in the Forum I should have been able to hear Mr. MacDonald when he came on the stage to explain to the people that very important policy, but what I heard instead was abusive shouts, boos, etc., that evidently came from the same crowds of hecklers from the same parts of the Forum. That made me think that these hecklers came to the meeting from some place or places for the purpose of not listening or letting any other person listen to any speaker unless he happened to be a dealer or their aides, such as the recruit from West Prince, and I was not surprised that our Chairman, Mr. Roland MacDonald, acted out of what I suppose was fatherly sympathy and saw fit to extend the helping hand that at the time seemed to be so badly needed.

I cannot see how the Premier and his colleagues could get any direction from such confusion and

HALIFAX (CP)—Iain Harris, a Welshman with two years' experience in the atomic energy division of the British ministry of supply at Harwell, England, has been named lecturer in chemical engineering at the Nova Scotia Technical College.

The Passing Scene

By Observer

VOICES FROM BEHIND THE CURTAIN

Living as we do in a country where a man may choose his own Church affiliation, or none at all if that is the way his mind runs, or even start a little Church of his own if he feels like it and is able to muster a following, it is hard for any of us to visualize a society where all religion is frowned on by the civil authorities and, in some instances, suppressed altogether. Yet, that is the situation today in large areas of the civilized world including a number of countries which until a few years ago were noted for State-Church co-operation: Russia, Poland, Czechoslovakia, etc.

That religion is undergoing systematic attack from governments in Communist controlled states is an established fact; but just to what extent and with what measure of success are questions which are not easily answered, for the obvious reason that any infiltration through Communist censorship is necessarily limited in scope and even more so in authenticity. It seems clear, however, that so far religion has not been rooted out in any Iron Curtain country; indeed, some reports appear to indicate that it has recovered some of its former prestige in the last two or three years. Other reports suggest that Communist officials have given up, as a lost cause, their efforts to kill religion outright and are now concentrating on plans to make organized religion one more instrument of the state. That, of course, would be less cruel than actual persecution; but the net result would be no less destructive so far as good religious influence on society is concerned.

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With all the conjectural reports and opinions it may be helpful in a small way to know what Church leaders themselves, who live behind the curtain think of the situation. Their testimonies do not agree in many important details and, of course, each testimony is coloured by the political and ideological bias of the witness. But, for what they are worth and allowing for inevitable discrepancies I quote some statements made by an assortment of Church officials who were in the United States this summer.

Dr. Guenther Jacob, general superintendent of a large number of congregations in the Soviet Zone of Germany, was bitterly critical of the East German Government's policy with respect to the Churches, although he admitted that "things are easier now than they were, even eighteen months ago." Here are some other things he said: "The state has a definite goal—to establish step by step the Communist social order. State

schools which all children must attend are based explicitly on the Communist creed. Children are taught (in school) that the world is a 'materla' and as such had no beginning and will have no end. 'Official regulations deprive the Churches of the possibility to carry out their missionary tasks and to utilize theatres, movies, press, and meeting places not owned by the Churches, and literature on a free market. This means that we are actually reduced to work within the walls of the Church buildings and through the Church weeklies of small circulation. 'Professional life is largely dependent upon governmental offices, not only for officials, teachers, and members of the police but also for workers, shopkeepers, doctors, artisans, technicians, and artists. Church members, especially young people, are under heavy ideological attack. You will understand that many people who would like to be active Christians and Church members are being driven into a conflict which they cannot ultimately sustain.

"Communism is a dogma which cannot bear any opposition adherents to this dogma must therefore be intolerant of anybody who does not acknowledge its absolute relevance in matters of life and death. They must be particularly intolerant of us Christians who can never approve of the Communist dogma if we do not want to betray our faith. It is impossible to believe in both our Christian dogma and the Communist dogma which reduces God to a product of a primitive mankind's anxieties.

"There can be no synthesis between the Communist ideology and the Christian faith. It is an either-or proposition for any honest person; the gulf cannot be bridged. Many persons, because of anti-religious pressure from civil authorities, disassociate themselves from the Church because they do not wish to draw attention to themselves. So much for the courageous Dr. Jacob. It would be interesting to know what happened to him when he arrived back home, for we may be sure that his words had been reported in East Berlin, and probably exaggerated, long before he left the United States. Another East German, Dr. Lothian Kreyssig, was just as critical. He said: "Co-existence between the free West and the Communist East cannot mean anything more than an armistice in the cold war. We must never forget that we are dealing with powers which consider themselves missionaries of an earthly religion and their relation to Christianity is like fire and water."

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