

THE GUARDIAN

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CIRCULATION "Covers Prince Edward Island like the dew" "The strongest memory is weaker than the weakest ink"

CHARLOTTETOWN MONDAY, JULY 13, 1953 Linking Communist Developments

Many reasons have been suggested for the change in Communist policy in East Germany, Czechoslovakia, Hungary and other states, varying from a complete reversal of long-term policy and ending to the police state regime to a cynical tactical move in the cold war.

As seen by W. N. Ewer, however, in his International Commentary, all the evidence shows that these changes are hasty expedients to cope with an alarming economic situation—indeed with a danger of economic collapse; and with the unrest which accompanies such a situation.

The pattern of Soviet policy in all the satellite countries has been the same. In the first place their economies have been modified to suit the needs and requirements of the Soviet Union. That has meant, for one thing, a rapid and forced development of heavy industry, the diversion of capital and labour both from light industry and from agriculture.

The result of this, and of the harsh measures it made necessary, has been acute shortage, stubborn hostility of the peasant to collectivisation and to excessive quotas for deliveries. Hungary, formerly a big exporter of foodstuffs, has now an acute shortage of food for its own people.

Other shortages added to the drive for more and more output and to stricter and stricter discipline, have brought discontent and falling output from the industrial workers. Coercion having proved ineffective, the decision seems to have been taken to try concession in the hope that the peasantry would respond sufficiently to tide over the immediate crisis.

A Polygot Assembly

France has set up its nineteenth ministry since the conclusion of the Second World War, with little hope of stable government having been reached. Following a search for over five weeks to find a leader, the Republic has chosen as Premier M. Joseph Laniel, described as a millionaire farmer and industrialist and a Moderate Conservative.

The Laniel ministry includes six former premiers. Predominantly Conservative, it contains as well a number of the former followers of de Gaulle. The experience of the ex-premiers should prove of value to the new leader, and will enable him to have France represented at the Bermuda conference—probably by M. George Bidault who has been appointed Minister of Foreign Affairs—or by someone familiar with the international situation.

At best, however, says an exchange, the new administration may only be regarded as a stop-gap. A new constitution was adopted after the War. A ministry resigns. The deputies remain in the Assembly. A new ministry formed, even after it has been ratified by the deputies, it has no assurance of permanency. The defeat of the government does not mean that the deputies vacate their seats.

The car ferry from Borden to Tormentine is the primary link between Islanders and the rest of Canada. The retirement of Capt. John R. B. Maguire as senior master of the M. V. Abegweit after 26 years of service between this Province and the mainland is the occasion for congratulations and thanks for a job well done, a job that is vital to every man, woman and child in this Island Province.

To a looker-on, at least, the French Parliament appears to have lost all sense of responsibility. One ministry after another has urged a revision of the constitution but without result. In the meantime, domestic affairs go from bad to worse; the French colonies are in a state of turmoil; the French people are expressing disgust with parliamentary government, and in the field of international affairs, France, which should be taking a foremost part, is not filling an effective role and is losing the confidence of those countries anxious for her collaboration.

Music In The Schools

As noted in the resolutions adopted at the Women's Institutes convention last week, music is becoming more and more important as a factor in education. The subject was highlighted recently in an address before the Canadian Federation of Music Teachers at Toronto by Dr. Edward Johnson, chairman of the Toronto Conservatory of Music. Music teachers, Dr. Johnson said, should set out to make Canada the musical centre of the world.

His theory is that "we can put music into schools as one of the four necessary subjects, to have four instead of three Rs, the fourth being rhythm."

His three-point creed for music teachers is something for educators to heed: 1. To make music an integral part of the civic, industrial, educational and social life of the community.

2. To encourage and advance Canadian creative musical art and to promote Canadian artists.

3. To uphold the high level of musical standards and through education, co-operation and organization, to make Canada the music centre of the world.

Dr. Johnson's own career has accomplished much to place Canada definitely on the musical map of the world. This native son grew up to become one of the world's leading tenors. He sang in grand opera throughout Europe, became an outstanding singer of the Metropolitan Opera in New York, crowned his career by becoming the general manager of the Metropolitan Opera. Upon his retirement from opera Dr. Johnson returned to Canada to become a vitalizing force in the musical development of this country.

EDITORIAL NOTES

The port of Churchill is far from being neglected these days. The C. N. R. has announced plans for sending 250 cars of grain to that port prior to the opening of the shipping season.

Politics behind the Iron Curtain is a very deadly game. Instead of being relegated to something like the Loyal Soviet Opposition, ministers who lose office are purged and end up confessing every imaginable crime against the state.

The teachers who are back to school for five weeks deserve some sympathy from their now holidaying pupils. Summer School is rewarding both to the teachers and their own future charges but July days must seem as attractive as did June ones to the full-time pupils.

Clifford Bax, English dramatist and poet, was born this date 1886. He studied painting but turned to literature and drama. His first play to be produced was "The Poetasters of Ispahan" and others were "Polly", "Midsummer Madness", "The Rose Without a Thorn" and "The House of Borgia."

Credit Unions in the Western Hemisphere increased in number by 48 per cent in the past year and showed similar gains in membership and business, according to the latest quarterly report. Today they are a significant feature of the economy of nearly every country.

A Government publication now in preparation should provide much ammunition for discussion of freight problems. The 1952 edition of "Waybill Analysis" of carload all-rail traffic, third in a series, shows traffic and revenue on four days in four rate territories—Maritime, Eastern, Superior and Western. Standard, special, statutory and competitive charges are shown.

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PUBLIC FORUM

This column is open to the discussion by correspondence of questions of interest. The Guardian does not necessarily endorse the opinion of correspondents.

FORMAL GRAMMAR AND BETTER ENGLISH

Sir.—A correspondent who signs his (or her) name as "Minor Saxon" writes in your issue of July 2nd, a letter entitled "Better English". This letter is written in reply to a question appearing in your "Better English" column edited by Mr. D. C. Williams. The question there is in respect to the correct use of the verb "have" in certain given sentences. Minor Saxon says the best writers use "have" where Mr. Williams says "has" should be used.

I am not now going to say that I entirely disagree with Minor Saxon on this particular point of grammar, but I do seriously object to the opinion expressed, or rather implied, throughout Minor Saxon's letter, namely, that the importance of formal grammar is overstressed today in the public schools of our Province, and that in this respect at least, if not in all respects, our system of education is in danger of becoming static. Just how any close observer of events in the world today, can perceive an unduly static tendency in any system, educational or otherwise, I am certainly at a loss to know.

Let me say right here in regard to the particular question that we are discussing that if Minor Saxon will take a good look at the answers given in grammar in the last P.W.C. Entrance Examination he (or she) will find, I believe, to his (or her) heart's content, that the study of grammar, if it ever was static in our schools, is no longer so, but whether it is now in forward or backward movement—that is another question. I myself have had occasion during the past two or three years to examine more than one prospective P.W.C. entrance pupil, and have invariably found them defective in grammar compared with similar entrance pupils of fifty years ago.

In a recent conversation, too, with a P. W. C. language teacher, now retired, he told me that one of his greatest difficulties, if not his absolute greatest difficulty in recent years in the teaching of French or Latin to first year students, was the fact that so many of them were woefully ignorant of English grammar compared with first year students of forty or fifty years ago. Just how much "functional grammar" and dynamic English, Chaucerian, Shakespearean, or otherwise, has done during the past year to remedy this situation in grammar, perhaps next year's P.W.C. teachers in English, French and Latin may be good enough to inform us.

I have before me as I write, a copy of the address recently delivered by Principal MacKinnon to P. W. C. students at this year's closing exercises of Prince of Wales College. Speaking of students who do well, and those who fail, he makes the following observation: "If you were to examine students' marks over the years, you would find that those who fail, fail in practically everything; rarely have as much as one good subject. On the other hand, those who do well generally find that mastering some one subject in such a way as to sense the depths of knowledge, the process of thinking, to the reward of effort, is an excellent way of mastering the course as a whole". Personally, I believe this to be true; and if it is comparatively true of any one subject, surely it must be pre-eminently true of grammar, which is pre-eminently a correct-thinking subject. I am quite aware that in certain quarters the very term "fundamentalism" is tabooed today, and yet I can find no word in my dictionary, or in my educational "Back to Fundamentals Grammar" might well be a timely slogan in our schools today.

I AM SIR, etc. A FORMER TEACHER P. S.—May I here ask Minor Saxon on what grammatical definition he (or she) bases the claim to call "over" a preposition in the following sentence: Here are a few pertinent facts to ponder over.

enforce the payment of rent. "In the month of August a detachment of the 16th Regiment, about one hundred and sixty soldiers, eight sergeants, four lieutenants and two captains, under the command of a major, arrived in Charlottetown from Halifax. As the barracks were dismantled and taken down during the year previous, the troops therefore pitched their tents in a field on the east side of the Malpeque road, opposite the City spring, where they were comfortably cantoned. The presence of the soldiers checked all lawless excesses on the part of the Tenant League, but they ultimately obtained the main object of their desire, namely, converting leasehold into freehold, and making a final settlement with the proprietors.

"As the summer season was near over, it became necessary to provide substantial quarters for the troops, before the setting in of the winter. For this purpose a site was selected at the pleasant little hamlet of Brighton, where barracks, consisting of three long buildings, together with military stores, were erected, and completed by October, at a great expense to the colony. To these the detachment removed, but for a few days only, as they received orders to join their Regiment at Halifax, and were relieved early in November by two companies of the 15th under the command of Major Sewell.

"At Victoria Barracks this detachment remained during the winter, until the 20th of April, 1868, when they too left to rejoin headquarters: the Voluntary Artillery, Captain Morris, then took temporary charge for a few days, when they were relieved by the 4th Regiment, under Major Paton. This detachment remained until the following year, when they also left to rejoin headquarters, leaving the barracks to the tender mercy of an incendiary."

From "Historical Sketch of Prince Edward Island", Military and Civil, 1869, by Major James B. Pollard.

Old Charlottetown (And P. E. I.)

MARTIAL LAW INVOKED

"At this period (1865) vague theories were promulgated among certain classes of the people, causing an excitement such as the Island had not experienced since first it was visited by Europeans. This was mainly due to the vexed land question which for nearly a century had been a source of anxiety to the colony. Feeling aggrieved on account of repeated failures from time to time to obtain any redress or settlement of the disputes with the proprietors, the tenants organized a confederacy throughout the Island, in order if possible to organize these difficulties. This organization was known as the Tenant League, having branch societies in all parts of the country.

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The Neighbors By George Clark



"I can't dig the hep talk of these crazy, mixed-up kids."

Rome's Book Hospital (UNESCO Features)

Ancient Egyptian papyri, Indian tablets, scrolls from the ashes of Pompeii—books and manuscripts from every country and every century—rest side by side in a museum in Rome. The remarkable library is not well-known to the general public, but the Museum of the Institute of Book Pathology is widely known, and as widely respected by specialists in many fields, primarily those who deal with the materials used for literary expression: paper, ink, glue, cloth and leather. The books have one thing in common they have been victims of a variety of afflictions that threatened their physical existence. They have survived, with the help of science, fires, floods, bullets, bombs, chemical attacks, destructive insects or—simply—old age.

Mr. Deribere, Scientific Counsellor for the French National Museum laboratories, describes a visit to the Institute of Book Pathology in an article for "La Revue des Papiers et Cartons," published in Paris, from which many of the following facts are drawn. On display are parchments which have been wholly or partly burned, books which were covered by sea water, some which have been attacked by mould, others by insects. One bundle of documents came from the wreck of a submarine, where they had been apparently reduced to a mass of pulp. Their restoration, seemingly impossible, was confidently undertaken and successfully accomplished.

Not all of them were the victims of external enemies, for some contained destructive elements from the beginning, unwittingly put there by the bookmakers themselves. For example, there are some old and beautiful books printed upon rich paper made long ago in Sicily. The paper was made with water from a stream containing a high proportion of copper. Whatever this may have contributed to the beauty of the paper when it was made, the passage of time made the creases black and the pages brittle. Experts at the Institute devised a chemical treatment which restored strength to the pages and whitened the ugly marks.

Leaving the Museum for the Library of the Institute, one begins to regain hope. Here craftsmen unsew the pages from their bindings, place them in separate frames and slide them carefully into chemical solutions, which bleach the pages and restore their strength and flexibility. Further on, torn pages are carefully pasted together and covered by a clear varnish. Every material used is studied with the greatest care to make sure that it will best fulfil its purpose, that it will be chemically and otherwise compatible with the substance being treated. Sometimes, it is necessary to make a "sandwich" of a damaged page and a piece of gossamer thin silk fabric. After each element of the book has received appropriate treatment, these are re-assembled, re-sewn and rebound, the binding too, having been carefully repaired by appropriate means.

Very often, a particularly fragile manuscript is photographed. The original will then be carefully stored to protect it from further deterioration, but those interested will always at least be able to consult it.

Before all this debris, one stands helpless. Can it be that the incalculable treasures of the Abbey once flourished in these piles of old papers, now transformed into shapeless tatters by fire and water? What can the experts save from all this?

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The Poet's Corner

LANDSCAPE BY VAN GOGH

What can one say of a field in summer, and a bird flying over it that has not been told already? Here on your wall, this painting speaks of the sun like a lover clasped with the lissome grass, while a bird, instead, reels in the wake of their mingling reach and surge, eddying noon like a sigh, shaken with skyward urge, shaken with earth's caress. Whirled to a pivot of space, conflicting needs converge; ebb and flow embracing in timelessness, before noon spills to shadow among the zodiac pause, and sky is an hour-glass through which love pours like light; sorrows founder in wind whose crests retreat and pass while here and now a bird on brink of flight, flings an assertion to us that life aspires, that day will abound again, and all that the heart requires is surely spoken here—Spoken once more for all time through a meadow, a bird above, and yet, somehow, a portrait of you, wrought clear, clear as a field of noontide—clear as love.

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Notes By The Way

The use of the mind high above the average is always intriguing. No doubt the story from Kitchener, Ontario, which told about a fifteen-year-old boy's prowess in English will have been one of the best-read news stories in Canada this year. Lievan Gevaert came to Canada from Belgium only two years ago. When he arrived, he couldn't speak a word of English. Recently, he went to Washington, D. C., to take part in the International American Optimist oratorical finals.—(Fort William Times-Journal).

It's a good thing some one invented the strawberry. Without it the annual strawberry festival, one of the nicest events in a small town summer, would be impossible. Many Ladies' Aid Societies would have less money in their bank accounts. A highly irreverent clergyman once said that churches should have stained-glass windows commemorating the strawberry, the chicken and the oyster as the firmest supports of the church. The oyster supper and the chicken dinner are events where the eating is important. Eating at a strawberry festival is fine and just right for a hot summer night but it's only part of that event. A chicken dinner can be arranged any time, summer or winter, when the Ladies' Auxiliary feels up to doing the cooking for several hundred guests. A strawberry festival is pinned to the calendar by the appearance of

the berry in plenty and at low cost.—(By William Chapman White in the Herald Tribune). One good thing about summer is that it is the time when more people paint pictures. Professional artists are at it the year round, of course, but the hot weather brings out the amateurs who paint for fun, and for selfish commendation. Vacation time provides the leisure hours that make it possible, but it is more than just that gets the inexperienced dauber rooting out the old set of oils and picking up a new tube of burnt sienna, one of chrome yellow and a big one of plain ordinary essential white. It is the need to be doing something with those idle hours, one of man's most highly commendable characteristics. Doing something is extra fun when that something is beautiful, even if you are the only one who appreciates its beauty. Lurking beneath the consciousness may be a hidden hope that Canada is on the point of discovering its own Grandma Moses, but more likely the drive comes from the season of mixing Indian red with cobalt blue and magically capturing the exact shade of those sun-bathed rocks, or nearly. The feeling is as warm as the color.—(From "The Printed Word").

The modern advice to "go north, young man, go north" is usually given to prospectors and those trained in such mining professions as geology and engineering, but it now looks as though it may find market gardeners as well.—(The Territories Council, miniature parliament of the north, is considering the disposition of no less than 22,000 acres of agricultural land which lies within ten miles of Hay River, off the south shore of Great Slave Lake. It may be made available for market gardening. Colonel E. G. Cunningham, territory inspector, informed the council that the land is very attractive. Three men, he said, had done very well on soil which was inferior to that under consideration. It is not all rock down north, and, incidentally, Alberta's arable land, which stretches farther north than that of any province, reaches toward the Great Slave Lake farming belt. The day will come when mining communities around the lake will have their garden truck in short order from both sources.—(Edmonton Journal).

suit the reproduction, either in full-sized replica or by means of a microfilm projector.

This is only one aspect of the work done in the Institute's well equipped photographic library. Photographic means are used to bring out writing which is so faded as to be invisible or at least illegible to the eye, to rediscover old texts which have been erased from ancient parchments to make room for later writings, to verify the authenticity of stamps and seals.

An entire section is devoted to a microbiological laboratory for the study of damage caused by bacteria and mould, with an entire room reserved for entomologic research.

To one side are the physics and chemical laboratories, with an ultra-modern spectrometer and instruments to determine the effectiveness of various methods of bleaching, cleaning, of analyzing and improving inks, etc.

The Institute possesses a rich library of its own, containing works as old as 600 years, which deal with the graphic arts and with the means for preserving and caring for documents. A periodical information bulletin is issued, which describes experiments in process and makes available to others the benefits of research carried out at the Institute and in other establishments of the same kind.

The Age Old Story

O Israel, return unto the Lord thy God; for thou hast fallen by thine iniquity.

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