

THE GUARDIAN

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

CHARLOTTETOWN TUESDAY, OCTOBER 3, 1950

Atrocious Souvenirs

The Canadian Travel Bureau wants to see Canadian artists encouraged in every way and merchandized as they deserve to be, but the flood of junk being offered for sale on every hand is something else again.

Mr. Guy Sylvestre, administration officer of the Bureau, found it necessary to tell the conference in Quebec of Federal-Provincial travel directors that the Government won't spend money publicising handicrafts until the "atrocities" are weeded out from among those now on sale.

The rebuke is well merited. The very word "souvenir" has come to mean a cheap and gaudy trinket, usually fabricated in Japan and calculated to arouse no endearing memories of the locality which it is supposed to symbolize.

Fostering local handicrafts is difficult enough. It is all too easy to adopt standardized "for tourists only" techniques which those same tourists can find in identical form anywhere from Panama to the Arctic Circle. It is even worse for stores everywhere to feature mass-produced "souvenirs of Americaville" which no self-respecting housewife would permit to remain out of the trash can.

The first requirement of local handicraft is that it be useful and acceptable locally, truly characteristic of its place of origin. Merchants can go far to bring about its development by featuring local products for sale, both during the tourist season and through the rest of the year.

Government Press Officer

Information about Canada's external affairs has for some years past been handled with considerable skill by the Department's Information Division at Ottawa. Canadians as well as people from other countries have had access to factual information both through officers of the division as well as through the useful and attractive monthly External Affairs Bulletin.

External Affairs Minister L. B. Pearson has now carried the information activities of the Department a step farther. A Press office has been set up in the East Block. Function of the Press officer in charge is to simplify the task of editors and reporters seeking information about Canada's external affairs. Explanation of this latest move is that it will leave the Information Division free to discharge its duties in the rapidly growing realm of cultural relations with other countries.

Since the External Affairs Press officer will be in touch mainly with Canadian newspapermen, rather than foreign correspondents, it is important that he should not allow himself to become a buffer between the Press and the Minister, who, after all, must remain the ultimate source of information on matters of policy. Data, statistics, official documents, background information, and similar matters may properly be delegated to him, but the Press must continue to have direct access to Mr. Pearson.

Thoughtful newspapermen and others will wonder whether an External Affairs Press officer is, after all, really necessary. A lot of things may be desirable in official circles, but their implementation means adding staff to an already swollen public service at a time when economy is supposed to be the keynote.

A Memorable Battle

Six years ago this month, in October 1944, the First Canadian Army fought one of its toughest and most important battles of the entire campaign in Northwest Europe. This was the battle of the Scheldt Estuary. Under the inspired leadership of Lt. Gen. G. G. Simonds, the troops fought and splashed their way through a month of hell-on-earth under the most appalling conditions imaginable. At the time, the Allies, as a result of a speedy dash by a British armoured column, had secured Antwerp. This meant if the approaches to the port could be cleared, the unbelievably long supply lines which had been hampering the Allies in their drive through France, Belgium and Holland, would be tremendously shortened. Enemy forces were strongly entrenched on both banks of the Lower Scheldt which connects Antwerp with the sea. Before the port could be of any use to the Allies, the enemy had to be dislodged from these positions. To the

Canadians fell the task of clearing the Breskens pocket. South Beveland had to be cleared and Walcheren had to be captured although an attack was not launched against the latter until November 1. South Beveland fell at the end of October, and Walcheren November 7 with the capture of the town of Middelton. Much of the fighting had been done in the open, over terrain waist-deep in mud and water. The men, more often referred to as River Rats, were cold, wet and very, very weary. Of the operation, both General Eisenhower and Field Marshal Montgomery have said that they consider the battle to be the most important operation carried out by the First Canadian Army in the Northwest Europe campaign.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Great weather for repairing streets and roads.

It is early for Indian Summer, but by any name balmy Fall days are pleasant.

The demand for rural electricity is increasing incessantly. In Belfast district, especially, the need is said to be clamant.

The Temperance forces lack direction and organization and, of course money to finance the movement.

Invitations have been issued for the inauguration of His Honor T. W. L. Prowse in the office of Lieut.-Governor.

One does not need to be a close observer of wild life to determine that official measures against the skunk population have met with less than complete success. The nose knows.

A sixteen-inch fall of snow in British Columbia was reported to the Canadian Press from Edmonton, Alberta. Presumably the information was smuggled past West Coast censorship.

Apples, pears and plums are ripe on the trees. Corn is about at its best. Like fruit that is slightly over-ripe the farm and garden reach a state of mature perfection just before becoming merely a memory to linger during chill evenings.

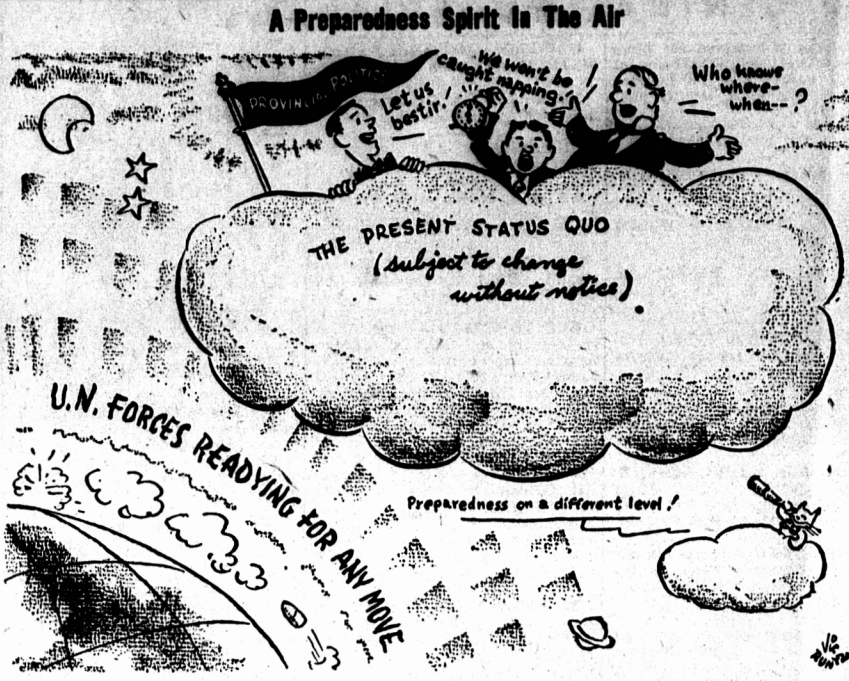
The freeing of the Canadian dollar was almost a complete surprise although speculation on possible revaluation was general. It is striking evidence of how firmly the idea of controls is entrenched in Canadian thinking, that the official action should have been preceded by no clamour whatsoever.

Those who are not in the export or import business have little to gain or lose in the freeing of the dollar. With them it means 100 cents in the dollar, neither more nor less. To those in business it is a different story, a loss of 10 per cent more or less.

The proposals of the Canadian Congress of Labour on state housing, unemployment insurance and health insurance will certainly be sympathetically received, but their implementation will depend very largely on what margin is left after all necessary measures are taken for national defence. If that should fail the other benefit would not be of long duration. Their attitude on our Confederation claims is "a horse of another colour."

What's in a name? A great deal of worry and annoyance sometimes when fond parents at baptism bestow Christian names of popular heroes, or events of the day, to the family cognomen. To remedy this in England, according to a Canadian Press despatch, "Little Dunkirk Ramsbotham" has been revived by the Church of England. So have Winston Churchill Smith and Clement Attlee Partington-Fish, if any there be bearing those handles. Under a new Church law they can disown their baptismal names for those of their own choosing when they are old enough to be confirmed. The Bishop of Chelmsford, Dr. Henry Wilson, said: "I think this is a very wise provision."

Oliver Cromwell, Lord Protector of the Commonwealth of England, died this date 1658. He headed the independents in politics and religion, became Commander in Chief, dismissed the "Long Parliament"; defeated the Scots at Dunbar and the Royalists at Worcester. He summoned the "Little Parliament"; appointed a council which created him dictator. Warring on the continent, he obtained a great name as a general, and a movement in England wanted to make him King. He refused the title owing to the army's objections. At his death he was buried in Westminster Abbey; his body was exhumed and hanged at the Restoration. He believed the end justified the means, and acted accordingly.



Old Charlottetown (And P. E. I.) THE YANKEE GALE

"The disastrous 3rd of October 1851, will long be remembered in the annals of Prince Edward Island. The afternoon was warm and still; the sky was heavily clouded, but yet no indications of the approaching tempest were apparent, excepting a lurid, brassy appearance to the north and northwest about sunset; in the West Indies, the sure harbinger of a hurricane, the moon had passed her first quarter, but the dense canopy of clouds, and heavy rain, rendered her light hardly perceptible. About an hour after sunset the wind blew from the north, and soon increased to a heavy gale, which then continued with unabated violence until nearly noon on Sunday.

"A few miles from the North Shore, and embayed between the extreme horns of the Island, were a number of American fishing vessels, for which there was no escape but the harbour. When they became conscious of their desperate position, they ran for shelter leeward; but having no lights to direct their course to safe anchorage, as there should, we regret to say that a fearful loss of life and property has been the result. Prone as the people of this Island are to exaggeration, we fear that it is, in the present case, exceeded by the sad reality, which transcends the scale of their imagination. Whilst we write, the actual loss has not been ascertained - perhaps never will - but we have good authority for stating that about fifty corpses were driven ashore between Brackley Point and Cavendish - a distance of only about 20 miles - within 24 hours after the storm had abated. Of those, ten sleep in Cavendish church-yard.

"As the sand generally shoals gradually to a great distance from the shore of this Island, the approach is, for the most part, safe and wrecks seldom attended with loss of life. But those sandy shores, in the late calamity, seem to have been the most fatal. A ridge of hills, forming the backbone of the Island, stretch across it from Crapaud, and terminate in lofty, vertical cliffs, called the New London Cliffs, on the north shore. Against those frightful precipices at least two fishing schooners have been dashed, but in neither case, we believe, have they been accompanied with loss of life. About two o'clock on Saturday morning, one of them was thrown high on a ledge of rocks, close against the wall of the precipice, and her crew escaped by a path, up which a goat would experience no little difficulty in making its way, in day-light. The length of the schooner on either side, and every soul must have perished.

"Many a widow has been left desolate, and many a child fatherless, to say nothing of the immense loss of property, from a culpable want of a marine barometer on board of each schooner, to afford timely warning of the approaching storm."

-The Islander, Oct. 17, 1851.

The Age-Old Story

What time I am afraid, I will trust in thee. In God I will praise His word, in God I have put my trust; I will not fear what flesh can do unto me.

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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.

AULD REEKIE

Sir,—Did ever a name have such ringed associations of 'reek from the chimney lum', narrow ancient historical houses; palace and castle; closes hiding filthy slums; fine, stone-built houses with the Adam brothers' unmissable facade bordering the Royal Mile stretching from the castle on its rock in a straight line to Holyrood Palace at its end, passing such houses as Lady Stairs', whose very stones breathe intrigue, and the home of John Knox, where he lived with his girl-wife, and from the tiny balcony of which he hurled his denunciation of hapless Mary Stuart,—"the Scarlet Woman"—and of Bothwell and Darnley, her "paramours?"

Auld Reekie—Edinburgh,—is one of the loveliest cities in the world. To walk down Princes Street on an early spring evening well wrapped against the searching wind, when the lights begin to gleam from the Castle windows high above the Gardens at the foot of the Castle Rock, when the shops at the opposite side of the street throw a brilliant golden glow on the tweeds, the lovely woollens, the antique silver, china and furniture exhibited in their windows; when, if one is lucky, a military pipe band will come marching down the streets, and high above the Gardens will pour to rouse a music in the blood of all Highlanders, yes, and in the blood of Lowlanders, and even of the poor Sassanach, that is indeed an experience.

The city did well, three years ago, to make Auld Reekie the scene of an International Festival of music, drama, opera, film, art and trade. Never has a hazardous project been more amply justified in the event. Not only visitors, but artists have come from all ends of the earth to take part in the Festival: American Ballet; the Griller Quartette; Spanish dancers; the Scala company of orchestra and chorus from Milan; the Monte Carlo Ballet; the Concertgebouw Orchestra from Holland; all these in addition to native growths, such as the Halle and Philharmonic orchestras, the Sadlers Wells ballet, Glyndebourne Opera company, and the excellent Glasgow Orpheus Choir, under Sir Hugh Robertson have been amongst the high lights which have attracted such illustrious visitors as Queen Elizabeth of England and Margaret, the Queen-Mother of the Belgians with her daughter, the ex-queen of Italy and her two grand-daughters and Don Juan, Pretender to the Spanish throne and many others.

Plans for next year's Festival, the Festival of Britain year, include a four-day Gathering of the Clans in August. The Gathering will be held at the famous Rugby football ground at Murrayfield, a ground capable of holding 80,000 people. There is to be a grand Ceilidh in Edinburgh's Usher Hall, a Highland ball in the Assembly Rooms, the Gathering of the Clans and Highland games at Murrayfield, and a march of massed pipe bands along Princes Street, with finally, church services. There are 85 known clans in the Scottish Highlands and Lowlands, and so far, very few have

SHELLAC

Sir,—I have known for some time that shoe polish, strained through loaf bread, is used as drink; and I knew a man in Kings County who drank that stuff, and his old mare had sense enough to bring her master home in a box sleigh to his wife and little children at 2 o'clock in the morning dead. For a good while I have been hearing of shoe polish and lemon extract as craze-producing and death-dealing drinks, but not until recently have I heard of shellac that a clerk from a big store in Summerside told me about. Addicts come to the store to buy this stuff for drinking purposes. I suppose they strain the gum out to give the alcohol a chance to go through and explode. Do we know that throughout Canada there are over 50,000 persons so enslaved to drink that they will risk death to get it? No one any more need describe the deterioration in personality of such persons between the first drink and that state where a man will risk his life for a drink. This is well known and these people often, perhaps usually are essentially the best of people—scholars, doctors, ministers of religion. I knew a bril-

The Poet's Corner

FAITH

O world, thou chooseth not the better part! It is not wisdom to be only wise, And on the inward vision close the eyes, But it is wisdom to believe the heart. Columbus found a world, and had no chart. Save one that faith deciphered in the skies; To trust the soul's invincible surmise Was all his science and his only art. Our knowledge is a torch of smoky pine That lights the pathway but one step ahead Across a void of mystery and dread. Bid, then, the tender light of faith to shine By which alone the mortal heart is led Unto the thinking of the thought divine.

—George Santayana.

shown definite reluctance to take part,—the reluctance seems to be due to the idea that such a parade would be contrary to Highland dignity. The organizers are doing their utmost to disprove this notion. At the Highland games about 20 bands, including bands from Canada, New Zealand and U. S. A. will play. It is said that this will be the first great Gathering since the '45. It is hoped too, to include a performance of Leonide Massine's new Scottish ballet, 'Donald of the Burthen'. Massine has already been working on this ballet since 1947, and its first performance has been postponed several times, but critics who have been privileged to see it in rehearsal, speak very highly of it. It has been inspired by Scottish legends and Scottish dances, and is the first representation in choreography of Scottish tradition. I am, Sir, etc. RUTH SILLITOE.

HELLAC

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Notes By The Way —

George Bernard Shaw has undergone an operation and the nurses have been glad that the anaesthetic made him stop talking for a while.—St. Thomas Times-Journal.

This newspaper has received numerous complaints from both residents of this town and from those living along the highway about the increasing menace of car-carriers. We think the solution lies in having both municipal and Provincial Police take a much sterner stand against car-carriers which are travelling at excessive speeds and which are weaving in and out of traffic, imperiling the motoring public. A few fines would soon result in car-carrier companies instructing their drivers to change their tactics and would result in more sensible schedules being devised. A car-carrier smash-up makes an ordinary motor car collision look like child's play.—Brockville Recorder and Times.

British Columbians who have fanatic Doukhobors as neighbors may be excused if they greet the announcement of remission of sentences against a number of these people with a doubt born of long experience. Nobody will dispute the recommendation of the provincial research committee nor the action of Federal Minister of Justice Garson in freeing the nude paraders at the request of Attorney General Wismer. Keeping these people in jail at great expense was achieving nothing but a bill for the

heard in this church any reference to the liquor problem? A few ministers do deal with the problem but the majority seem to steer clear of the subject.

The brewers don't care, the bootleggers don't care, the Government doesn't care enough to put temperance instruction into the schools where it belongs and where only it can be effective. The ministers of the religion of Jesus must care. He cared enough to die for us; and we say "Lord, Lord" plenty. We must surely do something more about this growing evil that is wasting the lives of so many of our fellow citizens. The pulpit is not the place to fight the battle, but it is the place to sound the cry, to arms. "Am I my brother's keeper?" I certainly am, or I am no follower of Jesus and in no case are we more definitely called to play the "Good Samaritan" than in the case of those helpless victims of drink. W.I. GREEN Stanley Bridge.

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