

THE GUARDIAN

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"The Strongest Memory is Weaker Than the Weakest Ink"

CHARLOTTETOWN, THURSDAY, JUNE 28, 1951

Too Many Propagandists

The Massey Commission's recommendation that the External Affairs department increase substantially the number of information officers at Canadian missions abroad has provoked considerable misgiving as to whether propaganda for foreign consumption ought not to be under the supervision of some other agency. The point is not a new one, but it has been considerably sharpened by External Affairs Minister Pearson's recent efforts to impress upon the United States the disinclination of Canada to accept what he describes as the role of "satellite" to the policies of Washington.

The matter goes a good deal deeper than the question of who should have charge of propaganda activities. It raises grave doubts as to whether Canada can engage in such activities at all and remain the kind of country most Canadians want it to be. For, until Mr. Pearson raised the issue, few if any Canadians imagined for a moment that this country had any quarrel with the United States.

Appointment of the secretary to the Massey Commission as the new head of External Affairs' information division is pretty clear evidence that the propaganda activities of the department will be stepped up to a new tempo. It is equally clear that the propaganda line will follow the line of the Commission's report, which can scarcely be described as being friendly in so far as the United States is concerned.

The truth is the best form of propaganda. Thoughtful Canadians are confident that frank statements to the people of this country regarding the difficulties, real or imagined, in our relations with the United States, hold better promise of results than the appointment of a horde of official propagandists to Canadian diplomatic missions abroad.

Home Rule

While the English remain unconvinced that Scottish aspirations toward home rule deserve serious attention, it has been left for Harvard University to withhold recognition even from the Act of Union. In its listing of foreign students registered at the university, the institution does not mention Britain or the United Kingdom, but instead has separate entries for England, (58 students), and Scotland (two).

"There must be some significance," comments the Ottawa Citizen, "in the fact that of the Scots scholars, one is interested in the humanities, and is registered in Harvard College, while the other is studying design; but of the Englishmen, 20 are entered in the School of Business Administration."

"It may be that the English still hope to learn enough to become managers of their own banks, despite the demonstrable fact that this is impossible as long as Scotland stands. Meanwhile, the distinction which Harvard University draws between the two countries is a measure of the gap that divides the thinking of scholars on the one hand, and politicians on the other. Burns, after all, is eternally Scottish, as Shakespeare is English. Harvard rightly understands that the true distinctiveness of a nation lies not in its flag but in its poets and its books."

A Lady's Come-Back

Most of the people who appear in Birthday Honors Lists have had little experience of failure. This year, notes the London Observer, a striking exception to this rule is the seventy-nine-year-old pianist, Adeline de Lara, who is one of the last links with the remote world of Brahms and Grieg.

At the age of six, in 1878, Mme. de Lara was playing for five hours a day at a wax-works museum in Liverpool. After seven years of this drudgery, she was sent to Frankfurt to study under the greatest pianist of the time, Clara Schumann. With this apprenticeship, she seemed assured of an easy future. But in 1908 disaster overtook her; she lost her head in the middle of the Schumann concerto at Birmingham, the conductor stopped the orchestra, and Mme. de Lara fled from the platform in shame. For years she disappeared from the concert-stage. In World War I she was reduced to providing background piano music to silent films in a Marble Arch cinema.

It was 27 years before she recovered

enough confidence to play a concerto. Today she is sought after to make films, recordings and broadcasts, and recognized as a Schumann authority. She is a humble person, but now as vigorous and cocky as a sparrow.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Murray River is the agricultural capital of King's County for the day.

Sixpenny telegrams, half-penny per word were introduced in the United Kingdom this date 1885. The charge included delivery within three miles of the receiving office.

The Minister of Defence (Mr. Claxton) contemplates taking a flight to Korea in the Parliamentary vacation. Just why such an expense should be incurred is not self-evident.

Another stage in the development of the nationalization of our medical service is shown in the proposed expansion of free dental service to children from Grade II upwards.

It is reliably stated that no alarming condition exists in Canada, as in U. S., of teen-agers indulging in narcotics. The bad habit has not crossed the border, and every endeavour should be made to maintain the embargo.

Canada's policy of granting subsidies to shipping during the difficult period commencing in 1949 is now paying dividends. Shipping is again in demand and thanks largely to the one-year subsidy, Canadian tonnage has remained fairly large.

Nearness to markets steadily becomes less important in the production and marketing of fresh fish, fruits and vegetables. The latest device to overcome the disadvantage of distance is the technique of packing the products in nitrogen, which is harmless and tasteless and which does not change the natural flavour and colour of food.

Canada is eating into her exchange resources at a rapid rate, due to defence expenditure. In May she imported \$407,400,000 worth of goods, and paid for them by \$327,000,000 exports, a deficit (the fifth month's deficit this year) of \$80,400,000. Somebody, presumably the taxpayer, will have to make up the difference.

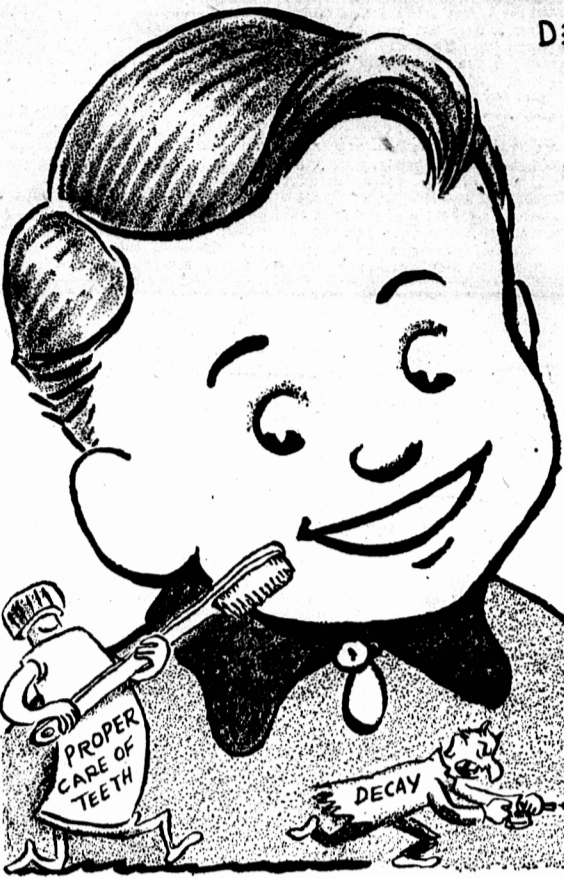
Under the new old age pensions law, a scheme has been devised that will enable provincial authorities to trace more or less accurately the ages of applicants. Where doubt is occasioned, the authorities can obtain from the census records of the Bureau of Statistics "any information respecting the age of a recipient." But there's one condition. The records can only be from a census held 30 years earlier—or more.

Several Canadian mayors attended the International Congress of Local Authorities—the first to be held in Britain since 1932—in Brighton, England. Delegates were welcomed at a civic reception on June 25, and will spend the rest of the week discussing such topics as education, water and sewage services, and the spread of food poisoning. Delegates will visit the Festival of Britain centres in London and be entertained by the London County Council.

Finding the choice spots for beach angling by trial and error would be a very long process indeed with the great stretches of coastline around this Province. A more rapid and effective method of locating the striped bass would be to employ light aircraft for a survey as has become the accepted method of making wild-fowl surveys.

If he were not a philosopher, says The Spectator, Mr. Chuter Ede (whose name is now appearing more frequently in British political news bulletins) might rail at his fate. He has shown himself a born Leader of the House, but Mr. Attlee has only given him the post when Labour's lease of power is running out. Having composed the "prayer" war when it was at its most furious, he has since handled the House with a wisdom and patient good humour that it is interesting to contrast with the different tactic of Mr. Morrison, who relied on his quick wits and agility in manoeuvre, reinforced by some pugnacity. Labour thought Mr. Morrison irreplaceable as Leader, but Mr. Ede has confirmed once more the old truth that no man is indispensable. Indeed, in the present touchy conditions it is arguable that Mr. Ede's sweet reasonableness has served Labour better than Mr. Morrison's artful generalship. In any event, Mr. Ede must now be ranked with Mr. Attlee and Mr. Morrison for statesmanlike qualities and it is a reflection on Mr. Attlee's judgment or on his freedom of choice that he should have left Mr. Ede at the Home Office for six years.

To Guard Precious Smiles



Division of Dental Public Health of P.E.I. on the march!

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.

A SOBER ELECTION

Sir—An election has been fought and won, and not a cent of money nor a drop of liquor used. We have reason to be proud of P. E. Island. About sixty-five years ago I was present at a polling booth in North Granville. Pure light snow had fallen. About fifty men were out in front of the booth when into the crowd stumbled an old man, breathing fumes of brimstone, and speaking the dialect of Sodom. He carried a long bottle of Scotch whiskey. He went around the crowd and, as long as it lasted, he offered drinks, swearing vigorously at each one who drank. It was Grit whiskey but, out of the goodness of his heart, he treated Grits and Tories alike; and that was characteristic of elections in those days and until recent years. People expected it. Yesterday, I went to Hope River to vote. A crowd of young men were in front of the Hall. A dozen or more were inside—all sober men. I said: "Hurrah for Prince Edward Island! It's a clean election."

The Legion deserves credit for backing up this move for a better day, and the C. C. F. party deserves credit for setting the ball rolling. I am, Sir, etc. W. I. GREEN. Stanley Bridge.

Notes From Another Island

LONDON, England.—Although the whole of Britain is concerned in the Festival, and although most parts of the provinces have their own shows, locally produced and full of local flavour, the focal point of the occasion is, as I have mentioned before in this column, London. Which, after all, is only as it should be, London being the capital; but there is nevertheless, no more than a grudging acknowledgement of this fact in many other of our towns and cities. For the reason for this want of alacrity in provincial acceptance of London's leadership one must know something of the status of London in the eyes of the great mass of the people who live and work in other parts of the country. To them, London is just another city; a fine, and a large, city, maybe, but no more. A city, moreover, the inhabitants of which have a rather inflated estimate of their own importance. In this respect our natural insularity comes to the fore. We most of us think that our own native locale is second to none, except, as sheer chance may have it, in size. The fact that so very many of us have left our natal environment and gone to the most far-flung corners of the earth, following the present of century, is just one of those paradoxical twists of character of which we are allured to be composed. Some call it cussedness!

Thoughts along these lines are prompted by the fact that among the large numbers of people now in London for the Festival are a great many from our own provinces. It has taken this once-in-a-hundred-years occasion to bring them, for it is really remarkable how many people regard London as a place to be visited some-time, but the visit is put off again and again and the time never seems to come. This is particularly true of the older generations, who are apt to regard London as rather a sinful place better kept away from. It is the not-so-young, too, who are most bewildered by what they see when they find themselves in London at last. The thing that strikes them at once, and which they find hardest to get accustomed to, is the fact that "everyone" as a provincial visitor said to me in a

The Age-Old Story

Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you; for every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened.

Medical Care

(Globe and Mail) Another important step toward providing medical care for those who need it at a price they can afford has been taken by the Canadian Medical Association. Plans have been laid to make possible the transfer of contracts with any one of the seven existing regional medical care schemes to any other. Thus, people moving from one part of Canada to another will not lose the equity they may have built up in their former medical care plan. Employers with employees in several Provinces will be able to insure them through the national office, without the complicated problems of dealing with each regional plan. About a million people will be immediately affected by the new scheme, which is described as an answer to the possibility of socialized medical care. As the national medical service develops the number of insured will increase, and undoubtedly the value and variety of the services available will be enlarged. It has already been held against this plan that certain categories of people, especially the self-employed are not eligible for membership. It must be agreed that this is a hardship.

But every insurance scheme should start on sound principles. Unemployment insurance, even though Government-sponsored, began on a much more limited scale than that on which it operates today. A health insurance scheme would be under the same limitations. On that ground, the C.M.A. plan should not be unjustly criticized. What is of primary and permanent importance is that this sort of scheme maintains the doctor-patient relationship, which is all but destroyed under socialized medicine. It tends to maintain the professional interest in professional standards. It assists in keeping alive the conditions which enable the family doctor to become a factor again in medical practice. These are all extremely important points.

But apart from them, there is another overriding circumstance. A socialized medical scheme drawing compulsory support from all employed citizens will inevitably fail to deliver the service. There are simply not enough doctors and hospital accommodation to provide equal benefit throughout the nation. A realistic scheme such as the Trans-Canada medical plan, while at the start geared to available service and accommodation, will by its own operation help to increase the number of doctors, and to enable them to make an adequate living in all parts of the country. This is an end far more valuable than a blind plunge into socialized medicine just for political purposes. Experience so far has shown that in these Government schemes the losses far outweigh the theoretical gains.

Old Charlottetown

(And P. E. I.) FOREST FIRES

"The fires which have been raging in the woods in so many quarters, in the latter end of last month, have been very destructive of property, particularly in the vicinity of Three Rivers and Murray Harbour. On Monday the 25th ult., the barn of Mr. Wm. Lewellin, also the barn of Mr. Andrew Connors, were burned down. On Tuesday the dwelling houses and barns of William and Benjamin Graham, with a quantity of grain, were burnt to the ground, and a school house in the neighborhood. At Cardigan, the dwelling house of Mr. Thomas Owen was several times on fire, from the embers from the surrounding woods, and it was with great difficulty the ship-yard was saved. "At Murray Harbour, the houses and barns of William Daniels and Angus Lamont were wholly consumed. At Taudvin's shipyard, the barn was destroyed; a vessel on the stocks, and the dwelling house narrowly escaped. The spars, which were all prepared for the new vessel, were burned in the yard. Several bridges have been destroyed on the road between Murray Harbour and Vernon River, which must prove a serious interruption to travelling for some time to come. The Mills in the district have all, fortunately, escaped, although some of them were actually on fire, and were with difficulty saved. Fences are destroyed in all directions, and several buildings and outhouses besides those above mentioned." —Colonial Herald, June 6, 1940.

The Poet's Corner

DANTE Oft I have seen at some cathedral door A laborer, pausing in the dust and Lay down his burden, and with reverent feet Enter, and cross himself, and on the floor Kneel to repeat his paternoster o'er; Far off the noises of the world retreat; The loud vociferations of the street Become an indistinguishable roar. So, as I enter here from day to day, And leave my burden at this minister gate, Kneeling in prayer, and not ashamed to pray, The tumult of the time disconsolate To inarticulate murmurs dies away, While the eternal ages watch and wait. —H. W. Longfellow.

SHAVING STATISTICS

LONDON — (CP) —It was estimated at an exhibition of shaving equipment that 15,000,000 men in Britain shave every day, getting rid of 80,000 miles of stubble.

Notes By The Way

In spite of the high price of beef, a housewife is tempted occasionally to give the family, or guests, a treat by bringing home a roast. She will do so even though she is reasonably sure that when it comes on the table the carver will complain that it does not stand up. He then will protest vehemently that he cannot be expected to make a good job of a roast that slips away when he cuts into it. She knows that in his effort to get around the layer of gristle he will begin hacking, so that he might just as well be armed with a hatchet. It takes no gift of prophecy for her to foretell that the roast will be mutilated out of all recognition, that nothing will be left of it for a second meal, and in fact that, as he carves it, there will not be enough for second helpings. Even though she is perfectly aware of all this long in advance, she will go ahead with the roast, hoping against hope that some day the carver may get one he can't criticize and cut off slices such as you get in a hotel or restaurant.—Vancouver News-Herald.

Perhaps the most powerful of the British African kings arrived last week in London on a private visit. This is his Highness—the Kabaka of Buganda. He is a slight and graceful young man who presents a face of almost hieratic dignity to the problems of his country. He rules a rich kingdom of 25,000 square miles on the shores of Lake Victoria in Uganda. After three years at Cambridge and a few months doing public duties as a captain in the Grenadier Guards, his talk and manner are wholly English. Yet among the Baganda he occupies a semi-sacred position and not even the most bitter of the Baganda nationalists express disrespect for his person. His palace, on one of the hills near Kampala, is circled with a ten-foot-high fence of woven reeds. Royal drums sound in his honor on great occasions and his county chiefs kneel to greet him. One of the many problems of our relations with Uganda is how to revise the treaty binding Buganda and Britain without weakening

the Kabaka's prerogatives. The colonial secretary will visit his kingdom within the next few weeks, but Mr. Griffiths is confining himself to the economic problem of how to give the cotton growers a greater share in the processing of their crop.—London Observer.

The name "Dominion" is gradually—or perhaps not so gradually—disappearing from Federal documents relating to Canada. The Dominion Election Act is now to be the Canada Election Act. Dominion of Canada bonds have for some time been Canada bonds. And so on. Not many years ago, Ottawa legal authorities announced that the "Dominion of Canada" name is contrary to the B.N.A. Act which declared that the Province of Canada (Ontario and Quebec), Nova Scotia and New Brunswick "shall form and be one Dominion under the name of Canada." Whether or not this makes the name "Dominion of Canada" or just "Canada" a serious question; the first of these names was in common use until recently. But what does seem to be beyond controversy is that the Act declares Canada a "Dominion." And the reason for illuminating all reference to the fact is not clear. Tradition has some value, and change simply for the sake of change is not wise. Some evidently consider that the word "Dominion" subordinates Canada to Britain. But Canada is surely big enough and powerful enough and enough "on her own" not to worry on that score.—(Toronto Star).

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