

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, FEB. 8, 1954

Next Hillary Objective

Sir Edmund Hillary's plan to explore the Barun Valley in the Himalayas turns the world's attention this year to one of earth's least known areas, a desolate region of rocks, ice and cold.

Recently, while preparing to fly to Washington where the Everest expedition will receive the National Geographic Society's prized Hubbard Medal, Sir Edmund gave the answer. He wanted first to try an assault on Makalu, the 27,790-foot peak 12 miles southeast of Everest.

A spectacular region of roaring avalanches and icy spires, the valley begins on the southern slopes of Pethangtse, a beautiful 22,080-foot peak six miles east of Mt. Everest. Here the Barun Glacier scours a path southeast past the south ramparts of Makalu and feeds water into the precipitous gorge into the Barun River.

Most of what is known about the Barun comes from Eric Shipton, a Briton who has scouted the Everest massif for years. In 1951 he and Hillary set their hearts on probing the jagged formations of the basin. The next year they entered the region, accompanied by Dr. Charles Evans, a Liverpool (England) surgeon, and George Lowe, a New Zealand school teacher, both members of the successful Everest expedition of last year.

In mid-June Hillary and Evans mounted another unnamed summit, 21,400 feet. Finally the party set out down the lower Barun valley. From a gloomy defile the men emerged into fertile, green pastureland strangely contrasting with the crystal configurations of Makalu's over-hanging glaciers to the north.

Alpine flowers dotted the ground. Jogging on, the party met friendly Buddhist shepherds and soon found itself among thick growths of rhododendrons, firs and birches. Waterfalls tumbled from heights resembling Norwegian fjords. At the 9,000-foot level the Barun turned into a chasm lined with tropical forests where heavy rains alternated with sunny skies.

The Voting Age

The New York Times takes a dim view of President Eisenhower's proposal that the voting age in U. S. federal elections be lowered from twenty-one to eighteen.

"It is significant," says The Times, "that this movement has aroused little enthusiasm among the politically more experienced groups, including the two major parties, national and state legislators, veterans, labor and women's organizations, and others. The explanation does not lie in mere hidebound conservatism. It must be sought in an instinctive realization of the danger lurking in a project which would weight the electorate with minors who would be called upon to assume the responsibilities of national sovereignty before they could assume the personal responsibilities of legal majority, and who, unfortunately, in times of stress, if not in this country then in others, have proved themselves the easiest victims of demagogues propounding easy solutions through direct action leading to tyranny."

"Many factors contributed to the rise of the simplifying tyrants of our age, but the greatest factor that enabled Lenin, Mussolini, Hitler and Mao Tse-tung to ride to power was their success in capturing and misusing the youth of their countries, especially among the student groups whose book learning had not yet been tempered

by practical experience. It is significant that the great majority of the democracies have kept the voting age at twenty-one or higher."

Commerce And Art

Being "in trade" is no longer an impediment to social honour as it was among our mid-Victorian forebears. There still remains in some quarters, however, a feeling that commerce in general has little relationship with the fine arts and only a passing acquaintance with the essential graces of life.

In ancient days it was the commercial caravan that brought together many scattered families and tribes into settled communities. The famed Greek civilization was commercial in origin. Early municipal franchises, founded by commercial adventurers, developed later into systems of representative government. At the time of the revival of learning it was the "merchant princes" who welcomed and supported the almost forgotten arts of Greece. It was the commercial instinct which led Columbus to seek and find a new world with all that it has meant to the cultural progress of mankind, and which led British explorers, unknowingly perhaps, to set the pattern for the foundations of 20th century Commonwealth institutions.

In these days, when civilization is at another crossroad of history, commerce with its laws and obligations and usages is playing an important part in the efforts which are being made to strengthen the amity of the nations. Trade between "East and West" may well turn out to be even more useful in the long run than political conferences and treaties.

It is, of course, true that from time to time commerce has fallen into ways of degradation; so, for that matter, have some other builders of civilization, even the fine arts themselves. In the main, the light of commerce has burned brightly; its story, on the whole, is good.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Purse snatching incidents are something new to this locality. Authorities should be assisted in every way to bring the culprits to heel.

Winter has been defined as the season of the year when we try to keep the house as hot as it was in summer when we complained about the heat.

Vinmonopolet, Norway's State-controlled alcohol monopoly, has proposed a general 20% price cut on wine and liquor by reducing the surtax. The proposal is subject to Parliament's approval.

Production of oil by Commonwealth countries has shown a remarkable increase in the past year. The total for 1953 was approximately 20 million tons as compared with some 5 million tons in 1946. Of last year's production Canada accounted for 11 million tons, or more than half.

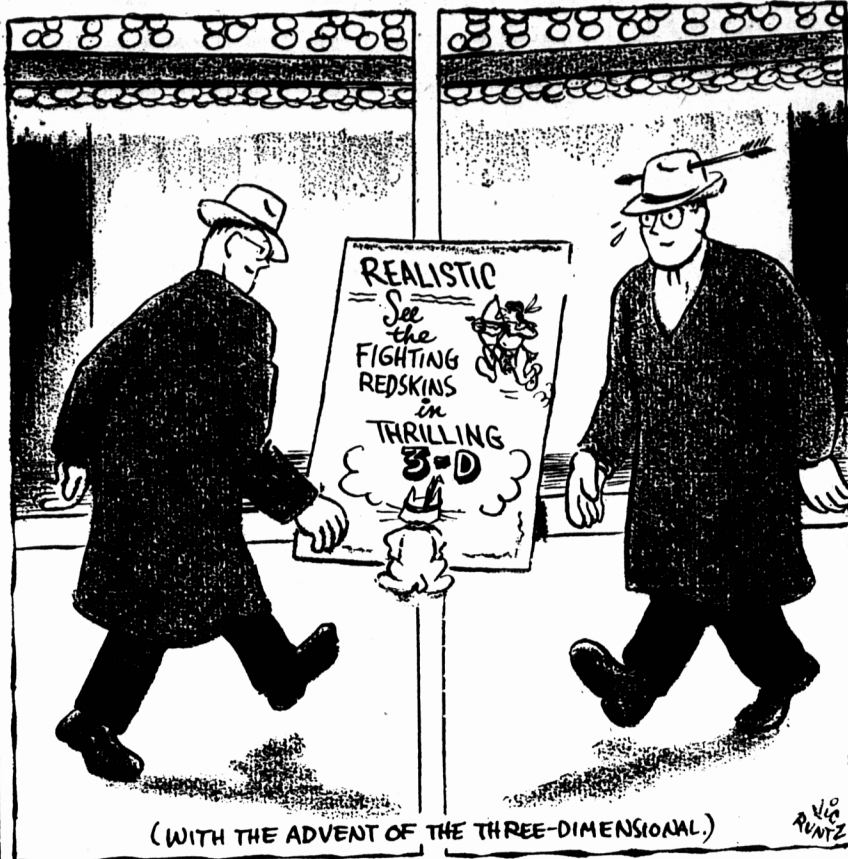
The New Zealand mountain climber who scaled Mount Everest is visiting in Ottawa this week. Far from inactive he is planning another expedition to the Himalayas next year. The Canadian Government will present him with a Canadian-made sleeping bag, the same kind used on the Mount Everest Expedition. Sir Edmund will speak before the Canadian Club.

Citizens of Charlottetown will elect a Mayor, Council and Water and Sewerage Commissioners Wednesday. The two years ahead are important ones from any standpoints, not the least being that the City will celebrate its centennial in 1955. It should be kept in mind that to vote is not a duty but a privilege.

Robert Burton, English humanist and writer, was born this date 1577. The author of "The Anatomy of Melancholy" was a scholar and teacher, a good-humoured pessimist who wrote nonsense seriously and wisdom colloquially. Sir William Osler described his work as "the greatest medical treatise written by a layman." He was also a sound and remarkably modern political economist.

"My view," said Field Marshal Montgomery in a recent address, "is that physical numbers are not all that count. We of the free world have got a spiritual strength that is far beyond the understanding of a dictatorship. It is a strength that fortifies our civilisation, believing as we do that the soul of a man has been created in the image and likeness of God."

Possible Unforeseen Developments



(WITH THE ADVENT OF THE THREE-DIMENSIONAL)

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.

STRAY DOG NUISANCE

Sir,—I see by the Guardian of the 5th of February that a little girl of 8 years was bitten by a vicious dog. This would be a good time for the city police to start the dog catcher at work to rid the city of all the dogs that are let to roam the streets. I understand there is a city by-law re dogs running at large. In the summer I, like lots more residents of the city, try to have nice lawns and flower beds only to have them destroyed by those worthless curs. I am, Sir, etc., PROPERTY OWNER.

"ICH DIEN"

Sir,—I serve. Serve whom? I serve the youth of P. E. I. who have the mental ability, the means, and the active ambition to take advantage of my facilities. These are the three basic requirements for a successful journey at P. W. C. (Average physical health and the absence of overt antisocial behaviour is presupposed.)

The present controversy seems to be centered around the first of these requirements; i.e., mental ability, which is now measured by the P. W. C. entrance examinations. Statistics show that a high percentage of rural youth are unsuccessful in these and subsequent examinations at the College; to remedy such a situation, standards must be lowered, or the quality of instruction in rural schools must be improved. If present standards are too high, then the fault lies with those who prepare the examinations; on the other hand, if quality of instruction is poor, then the fault must lie with the rural teachers. If rural teachers are responsible, then the issue can be passed to P. W. C. which has put its stamp of approval on them. In fairness, however, it must be admitted that there are a variety of other factors operative in the rural education set-up which may be cited to absolve the teachers.

I submit that improvements can be made in the P. W. C. method of examining and instructing. Both Government and College officials submit that there is nothing wrong with present arrangements. Now when a government or an institution reaches the point where it feels satisfied with the status quo, then I submit that that government or institution is growing old in the bad sense of the word.

The number of letters appearing in this Forum over a long period of time would indicate that the public is vitally interested in educational issues; Islanders have found by bitter experience that education is about the only natural resource wherein the youth may place its trust. One of the recent letters was justly termed "severe" because of the writer's careless use of statistics; however, it was met

Your editorial after quoting the "Branford Expositor," concludes by stating that it would be a bad mistake to change or adjust our present educational system to meet the requirements of the unqualified. Let me ask your writer who is to define "unqualified"? Who will be the judge to determine whether or not a student fits into this insipiduous classification? Surely not the public school teachers in this Province!

How many distinguished leaders in the business and political world were "duffers" in their public and high school days? Churchill, Henry Ford II, Laski, Eugene O'Neill are but a few. Because a student shows disinterest or even hostility to "book learning"—because he is lazy or appears stupid in front of his class in public school, he cannot be logically branded as unqualified for any higher education. Young boys or girls suffering from personality complexes, emotional disturbances in their family or

WUERZBURG, Germany, (AP)—A two-headed boy born to a German workman's wife three months ago has died in the children's clinic of Wuerzburg University, doctors disclosed Saturday. The child was born with two heads, a joint abdomen and legs, but had two hearts and four arms. Physicians said it was a case of "unfused Siamese twins."

Old Charlottetown

(And P. E. I.)

HIGHER COURTS

"From an early date, a high Court of Justice, having jurisdiction throughout the Island, became established at Charlottetown, while one Sheriff executed the duties of that office for the whole colony. But the steady increase of the population demanded the establishment of a separate branch of the said Court in both King's and Prince Counties. With this object in view the Government erected a Court House and Jail in the chief town of each, and a Sheriff for each County was likewise appointed.

"All preliminaries being completed, on the 17th March, 1835, the Chief Justice, officers of the Crown, members of the Bar and Sheriff of the County assembled in the Court Room at Georgetown, where, on the Queen's Proclamation being read, the Hilary Term of the Supreme Court of King's County was declared legally opened for the distribution of right and justice.

"On the 2nd June following, the Chief Justice and other officials met at St. Eleanors, and the Supreme Court of Prince County became legalized. Thus were separate courts and prisons established, and jurors from these dates were summoned to attend the sittings of their own local courts only. These courts sat for the trial of civil and criminal suits twice a year, as in Charlottetown, being presided over by the Chief Justice, solely until 1847, when the first Assistant Judge was appointed."

by suavity which results from a too careful use of statistics. Another correspondent added a dash of sentimentality in a such particularly inappropriate in a discussion; I too am a Welshman, but I consider this column an ill-chosen place for the college yell. A new session of the Legislature has been announced, and present discussion in the press may well provoke the new Premier to bring a freshness and vitality to educational issues. I am, Sir, etc., WELSHMAN. Sunny Brae, N. B.

EDUCATIONAL STANDARDS

Sir,—I have read with interest the various letters to your newspaper relative to the problems existing in our Prince Edward Island schools. I make no pretension of being an expert in educational matters, but I would like to take exception to the editorial appearing in last Saturday's Guardian, captioned "Educational Standards." First of all, Dr. Sydney Smith, in referring to "the membership in the community of scholars," is discussing university standards. There can be no argument that smaller classes, composed of interested, above-average students make for higher standards in a university. However, he is not discussing public or high school education.

Our correspondent has misquoted the sentence to which he takes exception in our editorial, which referred specifically to our "institutions of higher learning," not to the general educational system as he claims.—Ed. G.)

Two-headed baby dies. WUERZBURG, Germany, (AP)—A two-headed boy born to a German workman's wife three months ago has died in the children's clinic of Wuerzburg University, doctors disclosed Saturday. The child was born with two heads, a joint abdomen and legs, but had two hearts and four arms. Physicians said it was a case of "unfused Siamese twins."

The Age Old Story

But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither has entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him. But God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit: the things which are deep things of God. . . . But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God; neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.

social life, physical appearance, etc., are very apt to be unadjusted in respect to their school life. Are they to be condemned forever and banned from "the community of scholars"—or are they to be helped through what usually turns out to be a difficult, temporary state of unproductivity.

The public schools in this Province have always placed too much emphasis on memory work, or learning by rote. How well I remember being obliged to stand at my seat in public school and recite dozens of Latin or French verbs or line after line of some poem or other, on the context or thought of which I knew nothing. Should not more emphasis be placed on thinking?

When the High School student from Prince Edward Island reaches University he becomes at once acutely aware of his inadequacy with respect to thinking. His mind is filled with parts of poems, arithmetical formulas, rules for various disorganized things, foreign verbs and nouns, etc., all of which provide him with very little in the totally different atmosphere of the University. He is obliged to start all over again—to start thinking for himself. He has to be able to write properly and to speak effectively. He must be taught to synthesize long chapters of references, texts, to work on his own without outside discipline and to prepare concise, informative reports.

Is this type of training given in our public schools? Would not even the students who are obliged to go to work after public or high school attendance benefit inestimably if such training were given?

This I believe to be the problem existing at present within the institutions of our educational institutions. It can only be eliminated by a re-appraisal of the educational and high school teachers in this Province, and, of course, by a better program of subsidization through which the best type of teacher could be obtained.

The ability to read properly, to speak effectively, to write concisely and to think logically are not innate characteristics inherited by the few and denied to the many. They can all be learned, and learned best of all when one is young and receptive.

Let us not abandon the average student or force the lagging one out of our schools. We should rather try to help them with every means available to us. Someone once said that really the only significant thing about mediocrity is that most of us are mediocre! I am, Sir, etc., W. F. G.

Notes By The Way

Think twice before you speak, and the chances are you will be speechless.—Calgary Albertan.

A scientist says man's supremacy is threatened by the lowly insect. He's bugs.—(Hamilton Spectator.)

The food expert who says there isn't much a cook can do to ruin a fried egg just hasn't met people with ideas.—Hamilton Spectator.

"Naromyoknowhusunkatankshunk" is the name of a Connecticut river. It might be just the right thing to murmur when introducing two friends whose names you have forgotten.—Edmonton Journal.

A new factory for the production of oak-smoked kippers, built by the Irish Sea Fisheries Board, has begun production at Killybegs, County Donegal. The factory, which will absorb the surplus herring catches of fishermen along the Donegal coast, can turn out two million kippers during the season, which lasts from November to January.—(The Irish Bulletin.)

Chess is undoubtedly a noble game, and its international appeal is fittingly represented in the polyglot nature both of its terms and its bibliography. But for our money it would be easier and less painful to take up the study of Chinese ideographs, or to concentrate on the less exalted but not less enjoyable game of cribbage.—(Halifax Chronicle-Herald.)

Q.—What are the records for lake trout and muskies? A.—The Department of Lands and Forests list of records of game fish shows:

The largest fish of all our freshwater game fish was a lake trout weighing 87 pounds, taken from Lake Bennett, in the Yukon, in 1908. Ontario waters fall far short of this record, our best being a 63-pounder taken in Georgian Bay in 1934, according to the record.—Branford Expositor.

Archaeologists have been able to trace Eskimo culture back about 3,000 years. And they know that man existed in North America at the end of the ice age, 25,000 years ago. But that in-between period is still largely a mystery. Science is continually attempting to fill in the blank spots on the calendar of ages in its search for clues of prehistoric man on this continent, and recent discoveries of fossils in New Mexico—including a mammoth's tusk—are new evidence that cave-dwellers lived in this part of the world 20,000 years ago. Previously, geological specimens in Alberta and Saskatchewan had indicated that there was human life on the continent 10,000 years ago.—From Saint John Telegraph-Journal.

Among the remarkable social phenomena of this country is the increase in life expectancy. Today, a male Canadian baby may expect to live about 67 years. These figures compare favourably with most Western countries. In every country of the world where these vital statistics are recorded, except India, the female expectation of life exceeds that of the male in the first year of life, sometimes by as much as six years. Life expectancy is an actuarial figure and is calculated by a set equation for every ten-year period. Every one, whatever age, has, actuarially speaking, a life expectancy. Much of the credit for this mathematical extension of life is given to medical science. It has made astonishing strides in the treatment of adult diseases which, half a century ago, were almost certain killers. Yet, some members of the medical profession repudiate much of this credit and point out that the greater gain has been made in the health of children.—(Hamilton Spectator.)

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The Poet's Corner SONG O let the solid ground Before me lie quite still. Before my feet be quenched by the cold and dank ground. Before my life has found What some have found so sweet; Then let come what come may, What matter if I go mad, I shall have had my day. Let the sweet heavens endure, Not close and darken above me Before I am quite quite sure That there is one to love me; Then let come what come may, To a life that has been so sad, I shall have had my day. —Lord Tennyson.