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

In thoroughly bad taste if not worse is the conduct of a British Member of Parliament who listened in on a telephone conversation between Buckingham Palace and Cahada House and then divulged what he heard. It seems that one Tom Driberg, a Labor M.P., accidentally found his wires crossed so that he heard a discussion about a proposed speech of the Duke of Edinburgh in which he was to reveal "much new information gained during his recent trip to Canada."

Not content with listening to a private conversation between the office of the Canadian High Commissioner and the Royal Palace, he wrote an account of it in his column in a London Sunday paper.

Such conduct in relation to private persons or firms would be despicable. When the parties concerned are acting on behalf of this country and the Royal Family it is quite intolerable. The British Post Office is checking the telephone system, but takes the view that Driberg's action "is not an offence under any Post Office legislation."

It may not be an offence to the Post Office, but it is most offensive to Canadians. If the British House of Commons is concerned for its reputation for elementary courtesy it will discipline its member who has shown himself so lacking in that quality.

Report On Nova Scotia

This week the Government of Nova Scotia will receive the report of an economic survey. The highlights, however, have already been published in the American magazine, Business Week, which would indicate that the firm of consultants is at least equally interested in promoting its own business prospects.

The report lists specific industries which might find Nova Scotia a favorable location or which can be further expanded. It also urges improvement of the industrial loans board, which should publicize its credit-extension services more widely and operate with a minimum of governmental interference. Also proposed is the establishment of a business development corporation.

The report "pretty well eliminates power-oriented industries, because power is costly and limited." This consideration makes the artificial abrasives industry a poor bet, for instance, but plastics, where power costs are of secondary importance, "is a likely possibility."

The report also brings up the hoary chestnut that there is a defeatist attitude among Nova Scotians which is a major cause for Nova Scotia's lag behind Canada's general spurt towards prosperity. That Province has been moving ahead, but not nearly so fast as other parts of the country.

When the full report is available it will be of interest to all the Maritime Provinces for many of the conditions which are encountered in Nova Scotia are common to all. What such surveys do not do, however, is suggest a particular industry on which a Province or a section of it could profitably concentrate. It would, perhaps, be better to become the recognized leader in even a minor field than to struggle to sustain a number of industries which could be as well carried on elsewhere.

Conservation Bulletin

Soil conservation and related problems in Prince Edward Island formed the subject of several reports at the March meeting of the Provincial branch of the Agricultural Institute of Canada. These, after being edited and co-ordinated, have now been printed in the form of a bulletin for distribution in co-operation with the Department of Education. The bulletin merits careful study and consideration, and it is to be hoped that the Legislature at its next session will devote some time to discussing its recommendations.

In reviewing the present situation the report points out that only 56 per cent of our total area of 1,397,760 acres can be classed as land well suited to farming. Most of the agricultural soils are acid to strongly acid and their natural fertility is low. Owing to topography and texture, they are subject to erosion unless protected by grass or forest cover. Of the total area 46.2 per cent may be classed as improved land, making Prince Edward Island "the most agricultural province of Canada." New Brunswick and Nova Scotia have 7 per cent and 10 per cent of improved land, respectively. The fertility of large areas of potentially good land, however, has been

greatly reduced by poor methods of farming, overcropping and erosion. With the exception of swine and poultry, the livestock population has shown a marked decrease during the past fifty years. In general, the fertility of the soil is not improving despite the fact that, during the past fifty years, the importation of commercial fertilizer has increased from none to around 40,000 tons annually. At present about two million bushels are imported every year.

Large areas of marginal land have been exploited by stripping them of their forest cover and by exhausting their fertility in producing agricultural crops without the use of manure or fertilizer. Large areas of land suitable only for forest growth are now producing nothing of value. The Dominion census of 1951 showed that 434 farms, comprising 27,418 acres, had been abandoned. Data for 1951 are not available, but it is claimed in the report that the number of abandoned farms has greatly increased during the last decade. Among these are a number of good farms which are not occupied or in production owing to the advanced age of the owners and the scarcity of farm labor.

Particular emphasis is placed on the importance of woodlands in the economy of the Province. The indiscriminate removal of the forest cover and the impoverishment of much of the land has been followed by a lowering of the water table. The flow of the water in streams has decreased and many springs, brooks and wells have dried up, thus adding to the expense of obtaining and maintaining farm water supplies. In this connection reference is made to the appointment of provincial foresters and the passing of a Forestry Act by the Provincial Government, the first of its kind in Canada dealing with privately owned woodland. It is hoped that this Act will discourage the age-old practice of clear cutting, and thus sufficient trees will be left on a wood lot to ensure its future.

Among other things the report recommends a thorough survey of the situation. It suggests that more education be given regarding the use and management of land, the value of livestock and manure, the economic use of fertilizer, the care of manure to prevent waste, loss from erosion, loss from careless practices about a farm and many other factors on which profitable farming depends.

EDITORIAL NOTES

A series of incidents between Israel and Syria during the past week seems to be in accordance with the modern tradition of the Holy Land. For some years the Christmas season seems to be taken as a signal for anything but peaceful activities.

There is nothing like an aggressive enemy to bring together those who may seem estranged. The problem of containing the ever-expanding desert was, as has brought 70 countries together in a meeting in India. There is neither Communist nor non-Communist in the fight between man and nature.

American civil servants, according to a symposium in their quarterly magazine, Public Personnel Review, want to draw a line between sick leave and maternity leave pay. Lumping the two kinds of leave, it is claimed, would irritate some employees not getting the same benefits. It would, presumably, be embarrassing for employees to make use of accumulated maternity leave.

One of Prince Edward Island's older communities has voted to become its newest incorporated village. Murray River was well known to Samuel Holland and named by him in honour of the first Governor of Canada under the British Crown, who also, incidentally, commanded a brigade at the capture of Louisbourg and Quebec.

Captain Roald Amundsen, Norwegian explorer and navigator, reached the South Pole this date 1911. He studied medicine, sailed before the mast on whaling and sealing vessels and was made mate of a ship engaged in Antarctic exploration. In 1906 he became the first man to navigate the Northwest Passage. He prepared to reach the North Pole but changed his mind on learning that Peary had done so. Instead he made a dash for the South Pole, reaching it before Scott. He did much more exploring and finally lost his life attempting to rescue another expedition.

It has long been observed that workers in noisy surroundings can frequently converse with ease although their voices are drowned out so far as visitors are concerned. Research at the University of Indiana indicates that one ear at a time may be made insensitive to sound. Asked to compare a brief note heard in one ear with a continuous note heard in the other, they decided on average that the tones matched when the first was actually less than one-tenth as loud as the other. Most of the reduction took place in one minute. On the basis of these findings, the obvious way to attract attention is to stop talking from time to time.



Christmas Warmth From Your Paper

PUBLIC FORUM

This column is open to the discussion of current events of interest. The Guardian does not necessarily endorse the opinion of contributors.

CHRISTMAS TREES

Sir,—On Sunday the start of the annual rush of city dwellers was out making their rounds looking for Christmas trees. These are the people who think that private property rights end with the city limits and that these call themselves Christians or they would not be looking for Christmas trees yet on the other hand they do not know the First Commandment.

I do not pretend to be a good Christian and I will not turn my back on the people who are warm and I hope to follow one of these good Christians to town and then I will proceed to chop down some of their landscaping or perhaps wait until the summer when I shall have a picnic on their front lawn and then leave the mess around for humus.

If some of these people cannot afford to buy a Christmas tree I am sure that they would not be turned down if they would ask the owner first if they might have one.

I am, Sir, etc.
Mermiad.

NEW BRIDGE PROJECT

Sir,—With your kind permission I should like to add my humble opinion to a variety of letters in your Forum during the past weeks re the new bridge across the Eliot River which has been promised those people living between Race Point and Bonshaw.

At the time of this writing the travelling conditions must be deplorable and a like condition will exist in the spring. Approximately a month ago I drove up through that country I often do as I am a great admirer of that beautiful section of our Province and its hospitable people and the roads at that time were not in good condition and in places were only a "truck" transportation.

A new bridge which would be crossing somewhere between the mouth of the Eliot River and St. Catherine's would not do a great deal to alleviate the travelling conditions of the people living there as they still have the roads to contend with in order to get to the bridge and then more mud when they get off it. Would it not be a better move to start a hard surface plan on the road from Rocky Mountain to present St. Catherine's bridge and from there to the Trans Canada Highway? This would be more easily kept open in the winter, and guarantee the citizen reliable road transportation and would be better for emergency travelling and at a later date could be run around the South Shore, for there lies one of our finest views for the tourist trade.

This is merely the impression and opinion of one who sees it from the side lines.
I am, Sir, etc.
CHATTAM

DAIRYING AND OTHER MATTERS

Sir,—I have noticed recently a good deal of discussion re the dairy industry and the alleged butter surplus. Mr. Carlyle of the National Dairy Council, has recently advocated the suspension of the 58-cent subsidy now being paid by the federal Government. With the present high cost of farm machinery and necessary replacements, the cost of farm labor, etc., this would be a blow that the dairy industry could not survive.

Mr. Roland MacDonald, president of the Farmers Federation, has stated that the National Dairy Council is not a producer's organization. He is quite right in that. No doubt that lower butter prices would result in mere business and increased profits for the said organization.

The best interest of the dairy industry is represented by the Dairyman's Association of which we have an active branch here in Prince Edward Island. At a recent meeting of the Canadian Dairyman's Association its president, Mr. Gilbert MacMillan, advocated that the Government, in order to lower the surplus, but-ter should sharply reduce the price to blind people, widows and old age pensioners who need it.

Just how would that work? I am afraid the result would be an im-

The Age Old Story

For thus saith the Lord God that created the heavens; God himself that formed the earth and made it; he hath established it, he created it not in vain, he formed it and there is none else.

mediate increase in the number of blind persons. It might even result in an "open season on husbands", and among old age pensioners, where would you draw the line? Those whose care it would be to administer such a plan would find themselves in hot water all the time.

Would this not be a better plan? During the cold months of January and February when people need more fat in their diet, and when there are more people unemployed, reduce the price to everybody, to a point agreed upon and let the Federal Government make up the difference by way of subsidy to the producers.

I know that there is a large supply of butter in storage due mainly to the lush pastures of the past two seasons but it's not all surplus, and during the next five months a great deal of that will be consumed.

I noticed that the Minister of Agriculture, Hon. Mr. Gardner, has stated that only about twenty million dollars are regarded as surplus, and should we be unfortunate enough to have a dry season next year with brown pastures how quickly would that disappear.

Now just a word about potatoes. I noticed in The Guardian of December 1st an advertisement for the sale of Mr. Reuben R. Large, stating that at a meeting of the provincial directors of the Potato Producers Association of Prince Edward Island held at the head office of the Association on Dec. 8th that the advertisement of the Association was proceeded with New just what does all this add up to?

We already have a Potato Marketing Board by the grace of the Government of Nov. 10th. We've the old Potato Growers' Association still living. I also believe we have a Potato Dealers' Association and now on top of all this it seems we are to have the "Potato Producers Association of Prince Edward Island."

Will Mr. Large and his staff of officials receive the same remuneration as the officials of the Marketing Board, and if so, where will the money come from? Will they also proceed to levy a license on potato growers of the Province?

By the time these four organizations get a bite out of the potato it will be so small that it will scarcely be worth sending to market.
I am, Sir, etc.
JOHN H. MYERS
Hampton, P.E.I.

TEXTBOOK INFILTRATION

Sir,—The staggering impact of Communism on the American academic world is due to the collaboration of red and pink professors and also to textbook infiltration. Dr. Matthews says: "Publishers' lists of textbooks are loaded with Communist and pro-Communist authors who have insinuated their propaganda into their manuscripts." A notorious case is that of a Cornell University textbook entitled USSR. The book purports to be an exhaustive study of the total civilization of the Soviet Union. That is as brazen a lie as any of the lies that fill the book. In vain will you search its pages for any adverse criticism of the Soviet regime. Nowhere will you find even a reference to the slave labour camps in which from ten to twenty million human beings are rotting in a living tomb.

In a review of the Cornell volume, Professor W. S. Walsh of Syracuse University wrote: "At least fifteen of the twenty contributors are pro-Soviet in varying degrees." And not one of the remaining five was even known to be critical of the Soviet Union. Among the pro-Soviet contributors you will find the names of Corliss Lamont, Vladimir Kazakevich, Louis Lozowick and W. M. Malisoff.

A little over a year ago, the Cornell University Press was preparing a special college text edition of USSR, and gleefully heralding the news that twenty colleges and universities had already

'The Poet's Corner

HOME NO MORE

Home no more to me, whither must I wander,
Hunger my driver, I go where I must;
Cold blows the winter wind over hill and heather,
Thick drives the rain, and my roof is the dust.
Fair the day shines as it shone on my childhood,
Fair shines the day on the house with open door,
Birds come and cry there, and twitter in the chimney,
But I go forever, and come again no more.

—Robert Louis Stevenson.

Old Charlottetown

OLD TIME CROSSING

"Mr. Paton, of the firm of Messrs. W. A. Weeks & Co., Mr. Rattenbury, salesman of the firm of Carvell Bros., and two others, left Pictou on the morning of Saturday last, in an open boat, for the island, being assured that there was no ice of any consequence to obstruct their passage. This proved to be true until they got within four miles or so of the shore, when they fell in with very heavy ice. The night then, was near at hand, and it being somewhat foggy, they drew their boat up on a clump of ice, and waited until the following day. Providentially the night was very mild. They found, as soon as they could see, that they were in about the same position as when they had put up for the night. The last three miles they had to haul their boat over ice. They landed safely and sound in this city, on Tuesday, about noon."
—The Presbyterian, April 24, 1884.

adopted the book as a text.

At the present time that same Cornell Press is publishing a series of "smear books on the legislative investigation of Communism. Could it be that some of these books have already reached the Island?

The constituent parts of USSR were prepared during the summers of 1943 and 1944 as a series of courses on modern Russia. Before they were brought together in book form, the Cornell professors and other scholars were invited to write the whole section on Russia and the USSR for Encyclopaedia Americana. It occurred to some of them that these courses provided and they were forthwith incorporated into the encyclopaedia. Later, with permission of the Americana Corporation, the Cornell University Press issued these related articles in book form.

During the years (1947-51) of high tension between the U.S.A. and Russia, the thousands of American students who went to the Encyclopaedia Americana for information on Russia got the embellished versions of Lamont, Kazakevich et al. The Americana is in thousands of secondary schools and institutions of higher learning in the U.S.A. and Canada. Although a later edition has dropped most of the Soviet propaganda, many schools, unable to purchase every new edition, are still using the earlier one.

Kazakevich, the man who wrote one-third of the material on Russia in the Encyclopaedia Americana, about to be arrested for deportation as an alien Communist, fled the country to throw himself into the loving arms of his motherland. Today he toils in a Siberian salt mine in punishment for his lack of finesse in camouflage-ing his manoeuvres.

There is overwhelming justification for the legislative investigations of Communism in American schools. Those who intimate that these protective measures should be abandoned for the naive reason that more students would then take up the study of Russian, are straining at gnats and swallowing camels. Were it not for "official inquiries, we studying Russian to-

The Passing Scene

By Observer
THE LAST TORY

Sir Waldron Smithers, a Conservative member of the British House of Commons, had died, say, only ten years ago, the event probably would have passed almost unnoticed, except by his family and close friends, for he was not a very prominent man in political circles or in any other phase of the national life. But, because he lived until a week ago, his passing was a news event of some importance. It marks, in a sense, the end of an era. He called himself, and was called by others, "the only real Tory."

During his thirty years in Parliament Sir Waldron saw — with dismay and sorrow — the growth and rapid development of that unique political doctrine, British Socialism. (I say "unique" because there is nothing quite like it anywhere in the world.) He saw it achieving one victory after another until, finally, it worked its way into his own political party.

In the last ten years or so British Conservatism has gone so far to the Left that at present there is very little difference between the thinking of conventional Conservatives and that of conventional Socialists. The fact of the matter is that the Churchills, the Edens, the Asquiths, the Morissons, and the Gaitskills on the one, could come together in a political unity without any great difficulty and without any surrendering of basic beliefs on either side.

They could not, of course, take all the Communist votes and put them on the Socialist side. Anneur Bevan and a few others would scorn any such combination. On the Conservative side, now that Sir Waldron is gone, there would be few, very few, dissidents; but while the lived he counted himself a happy man for never ceasing to denounce Socialism and all its works, including its peculiarly British moderation. That is why, in a sense, his death marks the end of an era.

There is perhaps no man in the Commons or likely to be there in the foreseeable future, to take his place as a spokesman for a way of life which, in all probability, England will never see again.

This expansion of the socialist theory of government must be regarded as one of the chief developments of our times — from the long-range point of view, that is. It seems incredible that it could have happened so quickly — it took no more than a generation or two, once it got well started; but the fact is that there is not a genuinely conservative force in control of government anywhere in the free world at the present time. (I am thinking, of course, not of party names, but of the political philosophies behind them.)

In Britain "the welfare state" is just as much a political fact under Churchill and the Conservatives as it was under Attlee and the Socialists. It seems likely that, from now on, no change in administration will have any noticeable effect on that social trend in this country the same is similar. In due time the Conservative Party will come to office; but that will not mean any tampering with social legislation that has been secured. In fact, about the only dispute in this field between Liberals and

Conservatives is about methods to be used in sustaining and increasing social security by legislation. Any political candidate these days who talked real Conservatism, as it used to be understood, would probably manage to get one vote — his own.

In the United States Republicans and Democrats (with a few dissidents on each side) are trying to outdo one another in social action. The present Republican administration is an liberal as any in the Roosevelt era. In fact, since President Eisenhower came to office, many millions of wage-earners in various categories, hitherto unrecognized for purposes of social legislation, have been added to the social security rolls.

There is, to be sure, a small group of anti-social welfare enthusiasts in Congress; but it doesn't amount to very much really and there is little probability of its becoming a predominant force in American politics. And so one might go on and explore one country after another in the democratic system and not find one that has a government definitely hostile to the Welfare State concept. The general belief, with occasional modifications here and there, seems to be that moderate Socialism is the only way in which it is understood in Britain and the United States — just to mention two of a goodly company — is the surest and perhaps the only strong bulwark against the Communist heresy.

There are still a few political students who take the opposite view and say with Sir Waldron Smithers that "there is no difference between Socialism and Communism — they are the same thing"; but the story of the proletarian Communism seems to refute that. Communism has thrived only in those countries which in the past had had little or nothing in the way of social welfare.

In due course history will pass judgment on the present social trend. Whether that judgment be favourable or unfavourable, it is difficult to withhold a measure of admiration for the late Sir Waldron and those who thought as he did, if only because they have constituted an ever diminishing minority courageous enough to denounce what others call, probably rightly, social advance. And in these days of mass thinking that kind of courage is valuable.

Then, too, the way of life which they glorified did have a ruggedness and an independence about it which built strength in individuals, if not in society as a whole. One cannot help wondering if the gain in security will turn out to be sufficient recompense for that intangible but very real quality of life that became less and less important in the popular view as the "Welfare State" extended its range and power.

Opusculi are sometimes seen in southwestern Ontario, far from their normal range in the southern United States.

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