

THE GUARDIAN

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

CHARLOTTETOWN WEDNESDAY, APRIL 22, 1953

Coronation Amnesty

It is fitting that the Coronation of Her Majesty should be celebrated by, amongst other things, a partial amnesty. The amnesty will not, as in early times, result in a general emptying of the prisons. For most prisoners serving sentences of over six months it will mean a reduction of 30 days for each year of their term.

Such general acts of clemency are different from other amnesties, such as those after wars or to protect officials who may have acted unconstitutionally and which are more properly acts of indemnity. The amnesty proclaimed by a sovereign on ascending the throne or on being crowned is an act of mercy rather than a political expedient. It stems from the idea that when a whole people is rejoicing there should not be a large group, even of criminals, who have no cause to rejoice.

It is certainly sound psychology, for it is necessarily a limiting factor to public rejoicing that many cannot join in. It is to be hoped that those who are actually released by Coronation Day and those whose sentences are shortened will appreciate the fact that they have not been forgotten and that society, while it has punished them, is not vindictive. May they prove good citizens and valued subjects of the Queen.

St. Julien

Today marks the thirty-eighth anniversary of the Battle of St. Julien, in which the desperate efforts of the German army to reach the Channel ports in the First World War, by use of poison gas, were repulsed by the 1st Canadian Division. This battle was not the first in which the Canadian Division had participated in the early months of 1915, but it was by long odds the most memorable, and wrote Canada's name broad in the annals of military fame.

The point chosen by the Germans to launch their first treacherous gas attack was on the flat wet Flanders plain before the battered and abandoned city of Ypres. With a favorable wind, the choking chlorine fumes rolled in a heavy yellow cloud over the trenches of the Canadians and French colonials, extending from the British line to the coast. The colonials gave way, but the Canadians succeeded in holding on until reinforced. They had no masks or protective equipment of any kind, and their casualties were appalling. But historians are agreed that but for their achievement the war might well have been lost at this stage. Though it lasted for more than three years longer, the Germans never succeeded in taking Ypres. The name became a symbol of the unconquerable spirit of our fighting forces, and it has remained so to this day. To it have been added many others, outstandingly important in both world wars. We have still with us a number of the survivors of St. Julien, and several whose sons participated in the more recent engagements in France, Italy and other theatres of war.

Thirty-eight years is a long time. But our younger veterans too are becoming older, and the gap between their war memories and those of their seniors is narrowing with the passing years. They have had their own experience of the comradeships which blossomed, like scarlet poppies, out of the muck and devastation and hardships and sacrifices of active service, and it is that precious common denominator which links all our veterans in one great fraternity. Not with the living only, but the valiant dead.

Germany's Future

Commenting on Dr. Adenauer's visit to the Dominion capital, the Ottawa Citizen notes that among the urgent problems with which the German Chancellor must grapple are the millions of refugees with whom West Germany's population has been swollen, and the need for wider markets. Canadians, who hope for friendly and mutually beneficial relations with Germany in the future, could contribute to the solution of these problems. This country needs more immigrants, and more trade is essential to its prosperity.

A third problem facing Dr. Adenauer is the division of Germany, by which the Soviet zone exists separately under a Communist regime. Reunion is the goal of patriotic Germans in all parties. In approaching this problem, the Chancellor has

given priority to establishing closer links with Western Europe, and he favors contributing to the European army. He thinks that West Germany, having been strengthened in this way, can more readily achieve reunion, while preserving political democracy and remaining part of the West European community that is being evolved.

The time for negotiations on German reunion may now be approaching. More than likely, Soviet Russia's conciliatory gestures are leading up to the proposal of a settlement. President Eisenhower has anticipated such a move by including in his foreign policy program "a free and united Germany, with a government based upon free and secret elections." It is obvious that the Russians cannot have a German settlement unless they agree that political democracy shall be firmly established throughout Germany.

At the same time, the Russians, Poles, and Czechs could not be expected to be enthusiastic about the prospect of rearmament of Germany within the Western alliance. The West, on its part, cannot be sure what policy Dr. Adenauer's successors might follow if they had power to try to recover lost territories by force. If extreme nationalists gained control, the number of German divisions might quickly be multiplied.

New Fire Fighting Method

A new method of fire-fighting by means of what is called "water fog" has been tested by the Fire and Ambulance Service of Middlesex, England, with highly satisfactory results. Water fog is created by the discharge of water under pressure through a spray nozzle and the fire is said to be suffocated quickly as it is enveloped by the mist.

Describing the tests made, the chairman of the fire brigades' committee of the Middlesex County Council, said that water fog led almost at once to the extinction of the fire and resulted in slight material damage to the interior of buildings. The damage was no more extensive, he said, than if the windows of a house had been left open in wet heavy fog. It had still to be demonstrated whether the system could be used in the open air or in dealing with large outbreaks. In view of the fact that the seat of fires is generally in the interior of buildings and that the damage by the deluge of water used is as often as not as great as that caused by the flames, this new system may prove to be a great improvement upon the old.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Israel National Day.

President Eisenhower's proposal to substitute "a new kind of war"—one against poverty and need—for the kind to which mankind has so long been accustomed is a challenging call to the nations of the world. With goodwill it is an obvious course, without that goodwill it is impossible.

The winning of a New York engineering award by an electrically-powered car may be a straw showing how the wind of automobile design is blowing. Once really efficient storage batteries have been designed there will be no question about the advantage of the electric motor as a power unit for light cars.

Alphonse Bertillon was born this date 1853. He devised the system of anthropometry to which his name is given. It consists of measurement of certain parts of the human body, which he found by research to be practically unchanging after full growth. The system was very valuable for police purposes and widely adopted but has been superseded by Galton's simpler and cheaper finger-print records.

A commendable change in the Citizenship Act gives the Minister of Citizenship and Immigration discretion to restore citizenship to a naturalized Canadian who might have gone abroad and lost citizenship through restraints placed on him by another country. Some countries claim their nationals for as much as three generations and, through no fault of his own, a Canadian could be conscripted into the army of such a nation.

A type of vessel not seen before in Britain will be included in the fleet of non-naval ships which will take part in the Coronation Naval Review at Spithead on June 15. It is the Canadian Government ice-breaker D'Iberville. Besides warships from most of the world's navies, more than 50 merchant ships, Royal Fleet auxiliaries, fishing craft and other small vessels will participate. Among the smallest craft taking part will be two lifeboats that rescued a total of 3,400 men from the Dunkirk beaches in 1940.

Seasonal Occupation



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.

MENTAL DRAWBRIDGES

Sir,—Someone has stated that those who play the game of life most successfully, are friendly, helpful, inspiring, human, and possess "mental drawbridges." The feudal lord in the middle ages was a wise man. He built a huge wall around everything he owned, his home, his barns, his mills and then he built a deep ditch around the wall and filled it with water. Now and then he would sallie forth and wage battle, but he could always retreat to his home, pull up the drawbridge and stick out his tongue at the whole world.

Let's take a tip from the feudal lord. When we enter our homes in the evening, after the business of the day is over, let's pull up our mental drawbridges. Let us separate ourselves from the problems, perplexities and difficulties of our tasks. Too many of us leave the mental drawbridges down and our four or five worries pursue us into our homes. We are fighting them all the time, often far into the night. They give us no rest. They capture our homes and we surrender to discontent and unhappiness. Pull up the mental drawbridge. Let pipe, peace, books, laughter and gay conversation rejuvenate, relax, inspire us for tomorrow's battle.

I am, Sir, etc. READER. Hampton, P.E.I.

WORLD FOOD PROBLEM

Sir, In your thought-provoking editorial "Two Half-Worlds", based on an address by Mr. Grove Hambridge, North American regional representative of the F.A.O. (Food and Agriculture Organization of the U.N.), I pressed an opinion of mine. I pressed the assertion: "We know that modern communications have made people in the half-world of hunger keenly aware of the bitter contrast between their conditions and the half-world of plenty."

It is an interesting example of the idea brought forward by Professor Toynebe, intimating that "I believe our times will be remembered, not for their horrifying crimes but, rather, as being the first time that people at opposite sides of the world came to the conclusion that they were interdependent, and that conflict and hunger and greed are their chief enemies."

Against the above background, your April 16 editorial picture, entitled "Peace and plenty in the world," presented the possibility of widespread failure of the food supply as a consequence of drought conditions in China, is certainly something to ponder.

Indeed, when one remembers the following subsidiary items in the current food scene, the pattern not only becomes too complex for a layman to interpret, but, also, too dark to really see what a great American only last week referred to as "the highway to peace": (a) Failure of rain in material in the drought sections of the southwest did not influence the (grain) trade much, although the

The Age-Old Story

Be ye therefore followers of God, as dear children. . . . For ye were sometimes darkness, but now are ye light in the Lord: (for the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness and righteousness and truth) proving what is acceptable unto the Lord. And have the fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather improve them.

The Poet's Corner

MORE THAN THE SNOWDROP

Spring is more than the snowdrop. Hanging its bells of pearl, forever mute; It is more than the crocus-chalice. More than the clear pipe of the robin's flute.

Spring is more than the rainbow. Leaping seven-colored after the rain; It is more than the gleaming willow— Though these delights return with Spring again.

Spring is the life's renewing. The drum of the pulse, the blood beginning to sing. The brightening of the unwary heart's undoing. Yes, O this is Spring!

—Audrey Alexandra Brown.

The situation is increasingly critical over a wide area" (U.S. market report); (b) "Famine threatens more than 6 millions in the rural areas of Bombay state as a result of the failure of rice and wheat crops." (News item); (c) "Britain withdraws from the International Wheat Agreement" (Headline); and (d) "Pakistan calls for 50 million bushels of wheat, as a result of crop failures over wide areas." (Apr. 9).

I am, Sir, etc. MYSTIFIED CANUCK Toronto, April 18.

THE BALLOT BOX

Sir, If the ballot box could talk, what is the first thing it would say? It would be this: Watch what you are doing. You are drawing near to a box more sacred than the ark lodged in Solomon's temple. Multitudes of brave men have fought and died to give this box into your keeping. It is sanctified by the blood of martyrs. You hold it in trust only for your country's good.

When suffrage was given to Ceylon a woman was seen standing before the ballot box with hands uplifted in the attitude of prayer. This box, she thought, promised her country a freedom she had never known. There is, indeed, a great opportunity and there may be rich promise in the ballot box, if used intelligently and in a Christian spirit.

Can the Government of our country be Christianized? This is the question that every one who loves his country should be asking, and it should be the aim of every Christian voter. The survival of our democracy depends upon what we do with our vote. It is for partly, merely, to secure some political plum we prostitute our vote and help to destroy our democracy.

The Government is as good as

Old Charlottetown

And P. E. I.

CLOSE ELECTION

"Thursday last, being the day appointed for the election of a Member for Charlottetown, in the room of the Hon. John Brecken, translated to the Council; John Lawson, Esq., H. M. Solicitor General for this Island, was proposed by Francis Longworth, Esq., seconded by Mr. Thomas Robinson; and John Frederick Holland, Esq., was proposed by Mr. Peter Macgowan, seconded by Mr. Theophilus Chappell. The candidates briefly addressed the electors, after which the polling commenced, and was kept up with great spirit for three days, when John Lawson, Esq., was declared the successful candidate by a majority of one, the numbers, at the close of the poll being: Mr. Lawson 136, Mr. Holland 135.

In consequence, however, of its being since ascertained that one vote had been improperly recorded in favour of Mr. Lawson, a special return will be made to the House of Assembly tomorrow, when it will be left to the House to decide on the measures most just and proper to be adopted in such an emergency."

—Royal Gazette, Feb. 11, 1834. (In the Legislature the committee on privileges and elections reported that from the evidence of the returning officer, Mr. John C. Sims, it appeared that the name of Samuel Woolsey had been illegally entered in the poll books as having voted for Mr. Lawson; but on further examination of witnesses and scrutiny of votes, it found Mr. Lawson to be still one legitimate vote ahead. Accordingly it recommended that the House direct the returning officer to declare Mr. Lawson duly elected.)

the people who put them in power. If the character that comes to the ballot box is weak, selfish and uninformed, then the result will be weak, self-interest and uninformed; which means that our government cannot be Christian until the people are Christian.

But great changes have been wrought in public life by minorities. An energetic, consecrated minority can swing an undecided, fluctuating majority and lead them step by step to a position from which it is impossible to recede, provided that minority has a cause.

The passion of William Wilberforce's life was the abolition of slavery in the British Empire. Again and again his abolition bill was defeated in the House of Commons before it passed; and in the House of Lords it was held up for six years. In the beginning both church and state were against abolition but a passionate minor-

Notes By The Way

Public Works Minister Gagliardi says there are a lot of roads in B. C. that even a goat could not walk on. After he fixes roads for the goats we hope he thinks of the rest of us.—Vancouver Province.

They are making paper from grass in Florida, in competition with Canadian spruce. But it isn't new. The Egyptians made their first paper or papyrus from grass. Maybe if they didn't keep it up the Florida folks cannot either.—North Bay Nugget.

Carelessness is the cause of the large majority of highway crashes. The driver is the weak link in the chain of circumstances. Motorists who stay inside the speed limit, remain sober, and drive a well-found car, are not likely to have this kind of accident.—London Free Press.

Greater Vancouver Water District should pay attention to mounting evidence that fluoridation of metropolitan water supplies is a safe and effective method of preventing tooth decay. A panel of three experts told West Vancouver Parent Teacher Association that Vancouver and District Dental Society favors fluoridating Greater Vancouver's water supply now. They declared we could reduce tooth decay by two-thirds at a cost of only \$14 in a 70-year-old life.—Vancouver Province.

In the news columns the other day there was a striking picture of an exhausted soldier sleeping on the ground behind a pile of ammunition boxes in Korea. He is one of the United Nations soldiers who, a night and day-long battle had been trying to stem the advance of screaming fanatical Chinese Communist troops storming "Old Baldy." The picture of the ex-

hausted soldier has a grim symbolism and warning for all free peoples. While Malenkov and other Russian spokesmen are once more trying to bemuse the western world with talk of peace and co-existence, this battle represents the reality of Communist intentions and actions.—Vancouver Province.

To many people, idle time is regarded as an end in itself. They look on leisure as the mere absence of the need to work. Idleness thus becomes confused with leisure, and amusement with recreation. As those who look for happiness can see never find it, those who seek leisure for its own sake will never find it. A Roman proverb, "if you are doing nothing, no man is so bankrupt as the one who finds himself with all kinds of leisure and does not know how to use it. The token of it is to have 'nothing to do.'"—Hamilton Spectator.

A German mountaineering party has made the first ascent of a 22,000-foot peak in the Andes called Cerro Lullullaiaco, pronounced Yooyayayakko. Granted that German itself is a rugged tongue, adjectives to panoramic words, it is greatly to the credit of the party that they undertook not only to climb the mountain but to utter its name.—Ottawa Citizen.

Winning the Stanley Cup means a roximately \$1,000 apiece to Canadians. For finishing second in the league standings they are paid up \$500 each and for eliminating the Black Hawks in the semi-final they received another \$500, so their take from the pool could amount to \$2,000 per man. This is before taxes and based on an 18-man team.—Montreal Gazette.

Possibilities of the Sons of Freedom Doukhobors were slightly misrepresented in a recent Alberta editorial. We said they had a chance of moving to Guatemala. On rechecking we find it's Costa Rica, farther down the Central American chain, next to Panama. Put Costa Rica, too, has a small railway system and no doubt thinks a lot of it. Whether it would be happy at the immigration of a race of railway saboteurs is doubtful.—Calgary Albertan.

We have all been reading with some interest the proposal of the Alberta and British Columbia premiers to "take over" their neighbors to the north. It would appear that the Soviets are anxious to extend their sphere of influence which is quite understandable, but many of us feel that first they should tidy up their own backyard. In this case, the "backyard" means us, up here in the Northland. One facet of the deal is the Alaska Highway, which has been efficiently maintained by the federal government ever since it was given back to the Dominion by the Americans. Who would shell out the \$14,000,000 annual graveling bill?—Alaska Highway News.

Professional Cards section containing various advertisements for professionals such as Bell, Mathieson & Foster (Barristers, Solicitors, etc.), J. S. Taylor (Optometrist), J. A. McQuaid (Barrister, Solicitor, etc.), Matheson, Peake & Nicholson (Barristers, etc.), Chas. R. McQuaid (Barrister, Solicitor, etc.), A. Walthen Gaudet, L.L.B. (Barrister, Solicitor, etc.), Palmer & Haslam (Barrister, etc.), Dr. K. A. MacEachern (Dentist), Dr. A. L. MacIsaac (Dentist), H. R. Doane & Company (Chartered Accountants), W.K. Rogers Agencies Limited (Insurance Service), and McDonald, Currie & Co. (Chartered Accountants).

COMPLETE INSURANCE SERVICE advertisement for W.K. Rogers Agencies Limited, located at 181 Queen St., Charlottetown, P. E. I. Agents throughout the province.