

THE GUARDIAN

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

CHARLOTTETOWN THURSDAY, JAN. 14, 1954

Senate Reform

It is all too easy to fall into the error of treating the symptoms rather than the disease and that is what a great many advocates of Senate reform are inclined to do, those at any rate who do not advocate abolishing the Upper House altogether.

Looking at the predominantly Liberal make-up of the present Senate, critics raise the cry that appointments should be made from all parties, from the ranks of distinguished Canadians in every art and craft and business, or that Provincial Governments should share in the making of appointments.

Those who consider that the Senate should do a great deal more work for the outlay involved in its continuance sometimes want additional specific tasks laid on its shoulders. The idea being that if it will not carefully revise proposed legislation, overhaul sections of the statute book or study public questions then it should be given other work to do like administering certain Acts of Parliament.

The basic fault with the Senate is that it possesses far too much power, power that it dare not use for fear of being abolished. Unlike the House of Lords the Senate can turn down legislation proposed by the Commons without any restriction whatever. No law can be passed without its approval. If that power were limited to a year or two years Senators would feel far more ready to exercise it because the Commons would know that it could eventually prevail if it wished and there would be no cry to have the Senate abolished.

Mr. Stewart's Assignment

Mr. William A. Stewart, Canadian Press bureau chief at Montreal, has been honoured by being chosen to report for Canadian newspapers Prime Minister St. Laurent's journey to Asia in February and March. In his earlier days Mr. Stewart was Canadian Press correspondent in Charlottetown and is well and favorably known here.

Some criticism has been pointed at the Prime Minister and his advisers for taking but one Canadian newspaper on a journey of such potential importance. The difficulty, however, is obvious. As the Ottawa Citizen points out, a world-wide trip by air poses special problems which, in the final analysis, boil down to the prohibitive expense of chartering a special plane. On the Prime Minister's own aircraft, space is obviously limited. To admit, say, three correspondents would be unfair to others.

Latest Radar Defense

So successful have been operational tests of the robot electronic device, the McGill Fence, that Canada reportedly is now developing production plans and surveying installation sites for this aircraft warning equipment. Canadian jet pilots have been unable to slip undetected through the "fence" — a simplified radar device — and its employment as a supplement to the radar screens in the north appears to be assured.

Developed at the electronics laboratory of McGill University, the "fence" is able to supply the essential information needed for the early warning of approaching aircraft: it detects planes and indicates both their direction and speed. Compared with conventional radar stations, each of which costs several million dollars and requires a staff of 300 to operate it on a 24-hour basis (thus necessitating the establishment of a small town at each site), the robot "fence" is an inexpensive project, both in terms of money and personnel.

The present radar-warning program —

Operation Pinetree, a U.S.-Canadian venture with the United States shouldering two-thirds of the installation costs and operated jointly by the air forces of the two countries — is expected to be completed within a few months. The Pinetree radar stations are of the conventional type.

The cost of these conventional installations, writes Mr. Gerald Waring, the Ottawa correspondent for the New York Herald Tribune, was bearable for close-in coverage of the skies but "unthinkable" for covering the vast empty spaces of the Arctic. Hence the supplementary warning system afforded by the less-expensive McGill Fence will be a definite asset in guarding our northern frontiers — and thereby the continent — against any surprise air attack from this sector.

A Lonely Place

In a recent issue of a journal devoted to scientific research Dr. Lawrence Kubie of Yale University expresses grave concern over the training of research students. His criticism is directed not at the academic side of their training, which he considers to be adequate, but at what he calls "the lack of proper emotional preparation."

He feels that students are not being warned with sufficient emphasis that a scientific career does not usually bring great rewards in either money or fame. This, in Dr. Kubie's opinion, leads to disillusionment and weariness which are serious impediments to those whose business it is to search for new truth.

If it does nothing else, this criticism by a man who has been "through the ropes" will serve as a reminder that the researcher in any field requires many qualifications besides a good academic background.

Among these additional requirements are a deep sense of vocation, almost endless patience, caution and boldness in about equal measure, and the ability to rise above disappointment, obscurity, and failure. This latter is perhaps the most important of all, for to the one scientist whose name makes the headlines there are thousands whose hard labour passes unnoticed.

The laboratory is a place of honour; it is also a lonely place where only men and women of strong and cheerful personality can hope to retain the hopeful view, so necessary to research in any form.

EDITORIAL NOTES

It is really refreshing to have a diamond-smuggling ring uncovered in Montreal. For some time now smugglers have been dealing in such plebeian goods as cigarettes and potatoes.

The abandonment of butterfat content as the basis of milk prices may help dairy farmers solve the problem presented by the over-supply of butter, says "Marketing," a research project aimed at breeding dairy cows which will produce milk high in nutrients other than butterfat is under way at an agricultural college. At least two years of study are contemplated before an actual breeding programme will be undertaken.

Pierre Loti (Louis Marie Julien Viaud), captain in the French Navy and novelist, was born this date 1850. After distinguished service in the Navy he devoted his time to literature. He was the very antithesis of Zola and his works marked a revival of romanticism in French literature. He was elected to the Academy and a monument was erected to him in Tahiti in 1934. His works include "Le Mariage de Loti" and, the most popular of all his writings, "Pecheur d'Islande", a tale of fisher folk.

While C. C. F. speakers in Parliament are advocating that the death penalty be abolished other members of that party in a committee of the Ontario Legislature are pressing for more severe penalties including corporal punishment and greater use of the death penalty. It is not surprising that it should be so. Every party must have a similar variety of opinion and even individuals are swayed between a desire to punish effectively and to make a useful citizen of the offender.

"Experience of the past few years has shown that even the sort of fish can be identified by echo-sounders to a considerable degree of accuracy by means of the sort of echo produced," reports C. L. Boltz, talking in the BBC's European Service about modern methods of fishing. "Herring in British waters usually produce smudges with diffused edges like the mark of a dirty thumb. Cod produce a characteristic crowd of specks. Pilchards in shoals produce continuous shaded patches, but with the edges more sharply marked than when a similar echo is produced by herring. These are examples of a new sort of technology gradually being learned by the modern fishermen."

Hoary Story Dept.



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.

SCHOOLS AND STORMS

Sir.—Perhaps one reads on dangerous ground in offering criticism of the City School authorities. However, the writer feels sure that he has the following of a large number of city parents in protesting the apparent lack of policy in regard to snow storms and the cancellation of school sessions, especially for the very young pupils.

Last Tuesday's storm had all the marks of an old fashioned blow at 8.00 a.m. and the weather forecasters insisted it would intensify. Many parents in the city are still wondering why a prompt decision to cancel classes could not have been reached at that hour and the word passed via the local radio station.

The decision to have classes as usual not only exposed the children to the hardship of trudging through the storm but also to the real danger of being struck by a car or truck when very dangerous driving conditions existed.

The writer doubts very much that a missed session from Grade I would have had a serious effect on the ultimate education of his six-year-old son.

It is suggested that in future those in authority act quickly and cancel classes for the little ones especially, when weather conditions similar to last Tuesday prevail.

I am, Sir, etc. CONCERNED PARENT

PROF. DEWEY'S INFLUENCE Sir.—Dr. Neatby's book "So Little for the Mind" drew mixed reactions from the different sectors of Canada's pedagogical world. It is scathing in its condemnation of Dewey's teaching theories.

Dewey was a disciple of Spencer. And towards the close of his day, Spencer said: "I have passed my life hearing the air." Had John Dewey spent his allotted span in as innocuous an occupation as "heating the air", it is unlikely that Miss Neatby would have given him even a passing mention. But he was the spark plug in what amounted to a revolution in education.

Notes By The Way

You can't take time and put it in your pocket like a watch. It is nothing that can be kept or predicted, hoarded or counted on. It does not move to our desires, but we to its measure, inevitably. We know that and mourn it. But we shouldn't. We are not the victims of time's changes, but the beneficiaries. Since time can be kept, each moment is therefore new. It is up to us what we make of it. —Boston Herald.

Man may soon have an opportunity to get a better look at this "moon-men bridge" for science is reportedly planning to send an unmanned rocket to do a "photo-reconnaissance" of the moon. The rocket would be equipped with a camera, take its pictures and return with them. The rocket, says Dr. Joe G. Porter of London, who made the announcement, would have to maintain a speed of 25,000 miles an hour for five days to make the trip. This gives some idea of the advances that still have to be made before man can think of making space voyages himself. The day when he will seem a long way off when such primary requirements are considered. —Montreal Gazette.

Lobster traps, as we have always known them, are made of wood. Now, after long generations of the use of wooden traps, the old "conventional" type may be replaced by traps of steel rods. At Ottawa, the Fisheries Research Board have heard something about steel trap experiments so far in Nova Scotia waters. The basic idea is two-fold: (1) the steel-rod trap would be lighter to handle and (2) less liable to damage from storms and ocean currents. During two severe storms along the Nova Scotia coastline last year, we learn, the experimental steel traps "were unharmed, while half the conventional (wooden) traps in the same area were destroyed." —Halifax Chronicle-Herald.

Lack of self-confidence is a disastrous advertiser and can be grossly unfair to the individual who lets himself be victimized by it. It is irritating, of course, to be simply told to have confidence in oneself, as if it were like putting on a new suit—just as annoying as being ordered to relax. But there are clues to curbing this worry about inadequacy. In the first place self-confidence is not usually some in-born trait over which we have

materialistic lines, and takes a defeatist view of a child's power to absorb thought or to learn how to reason. It proceeds as if the soul had no higher powers. Therefore, it forces a child to accumulate facts and to be ignorant in the form of inert facts. The child learns to reason only by accident.

Speaking in Montreal recently, Dorothy Thompson, noted American political writer, said: "I consider Deweyism a greater immediate danger to my country than Communism. It is a very cheap and shallow philosophy." Dr. Sidney Smith, President of the University of Toronto, declared: "Education must be concerned with both the discipline of the intellect and the life of the soul. Certain values are absolute, and these absolutes should enable our youth to ride out the squalls of naturalistic relativism which sweep over us."

no more control than we have over the colour of our eyes. It has to be developed. A surprising number of people have to fight for it; in fact to realize just how many do to overcome a sense of inferiority should encourage those who feel it acutely, basically it is fear—fear of trying to do something because we might make fools of ourselves in the attempt. "Self-confidence," as Samuel Johnson put it, "is the first requisite to great undertakings." Few of us try great ventures, and genius is a rare plant. But most of us at times face great challenges in our personal worlds and how we react greatly influences those around us. To take the plunge, even when we greatly fear to do it, often gives us the first real sense of self-confidence; repeated attempts to conquer a sense of inadequacy build the best reserve of inner strength.—From an editorial for young people; Hamilton Spectator.

Old Charlottetown (And P. E. I.) HARROWING EXPERIENCE From The Royal Gazette, Jan. 12, 1836: Mr. Parry, of this Town, and his daughter, eight years of age, sailed from Charlottetown, in the "Cadmus," on the 27th November. After beating about the Gulf three nights, during very severe cold and heavy gales, the topsails and foremast carried away with the standing jib and main boom; the foresail frozen to the deck, the running rigging fast in the blocks, and the vessel consequently quite unmanageable, she drifted, on the fourth day, on Cape Breton, at Broad Cove.

"Provisionally the schooner, which was strongly built and well fastened, held together, and was driven by a heavy surf sq near the shore, that, on the receding of the tide, four of the hands succeeded, by the assistance of the hospitable people on the beach, who threw a lead and line on board, in getting on terra firma," but Mr. Parry had the anxious part of watching his child during the most inclement night, himself almost in a perishing state, and the vessel one sheet of ice—the spray finding its way into the berth where the little girl lay, covered or secured by wet clothes; yet, in this lamentable situation, not a murmuring word escaped her; her language was calculated to inspire confidence in others!

"Next day, about 10 o'clock, one of the settlers succeeded in getting on board, and contrived to rig a basket, in which the child was taken on shore, where she soon rallied, and made herself quite happy and at home with her new acquaintances, the children of their kind host, although a stranger to their language as well as to their persons. After a recruit of a fortnight, Mr. Parry and daughter, in company with a fellow-survivor (Mr. Louttit, the mate, who greatly assisted in taking care of the little girl), commenced, Dec. 14, an arduous journey of more than 300 miles, in one of the most inclement seasons on record.

"It is easier to conceive than to portray the privations and sufferings of a female child, enduring on such a journey, amidst drifts, deep snows, intense frost, scanty and indifferent provision, and inconvenient lodging; yet little Mary manifested a spirit of heroism and cheerfulness rarely surpassed by a grown person of either sex; and to crown all, in crossing the Northumberland Straits, she gallantly, where the ice was good, ran along, laying hold of the rope, to assist in drawing the boat; and could find cause of amusement, when her companions occasionally broke through the ice. Probably Mary Parry, if not the only, is the youngest child who ever crossed the Strait on the ice."

It is difficult to compare the present situation with that of the middle 20's for, of course, entirely different conditions are involved. The East is as far as Western many is concerned, economic recovery is proceeding with even greater momentum than that which surprised the world after the first war.

The Passing Scene

By Observer WHITHER GERMANY?

For a long time the German nation has been the pride and despair of Europe. In learning, technical skill, economic stability, it has had no superior and few equals. On the other hand, the Germans have had, up to the present at any rate, bad fortune in their political affairs and have shown little wisdom in their political judgments. This has led twice in a generation to devastating wars and of course at the end of each war they have had to start all over again to revise a shattered economy and what was even more serious, a shattered national consciousness.

It has always been the view of students of European history that if the Germans could only get rid of their historic dreams of conquest and put their many talents to work for the common good they could dominate European economy and culture by peaceful means without incurring the hatred and resentment of other peoples. This view is supported by the fact, which will be attested by anyone who has travelled among them, that the average German is a friendly, social, hospitable person. "The fact of Hitlerism" has been a readiness, almost an eagerness, to come under the inflammatory influence of political demagogues. This has been their undoing. Whether or not they have at last learned their lesson will not be known for some years. Some say they have; others say they haven't.

The one thing above all others about the Germans that puzzles the experts and ordinary people alike is the inexplicable way they have of recovering quickly and decisively from disaster. When the First Great War ended they were a broken people, economically, militarily and socially, or so it seemed. Immediately they started to rebuild and almost before anyone was aware of it—only twenty years from their defeat—they were stronger than ever before.

It is difficult to compare the present situation with that of the middle 20's for, of course, entirely different conditions are involved. The East is as far as Western many is concerned, economic recovery is proceeding with even greater momentum than that which surprised the world after the first war.

Figures recently published show that West Germany has exceeded 1928 levels in national income, manufactured products, exports, and everything else except purely military strength which thus far has been denied them. It is interesting to note that there has been some outside aid but, according to the figures, this aid has amounted to more than 5% of the total national income. The fact is that at this moment West Germany is the strongest economic unit in Western Europe: it is still advancing with a greater rapidity than that of any other nation. This is partly due, no doubt, to the wise and capable leadership of Chancellor Adenauer, and partly to the fact that there has been no burden of military build-up and maintenance.

It is doubtful that anybody in government offices in London, Washington, or Paris (or even Moscow) seriously believes that Germany can be kept much longer from having a strong military establishment, or that the present partition can be kept in place. If historical precedents mean anything—they usually do—the Ger-

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The Poet's Corner

OLD AGE The seas are quiet when the wind gives o'er; So calm are we when passions are no more; For then we know how vain it was to boast Of fleeting things so certain to be lost. Clouds of affection from your younger eyes Conceal that emptiness which age descends. The soul's dark cottage, battered and decayed, Lets in new light through chinks that time hath made. Stronger by weakness, wiser men As they draw near to their eternal home: Leaving the Old, both worlds at once they view Who stand upon the threshold of the New. —Edmund Waller (1605-87).

The Age Old Story

Let Israel rejoice in him that made him: let the children of Zion be joyful in their King. For the Lord taketh pleasure in his people: he will beautify the meek with salvation.