

Romance in Japan

During the war Col. Sugaya and Col. Kurimoto were officers in the Japanese Imperial Army. Now, according to a report from Tokyo, they are writing poetry. This in itself is nothing new; history has many records of soldier-poets, some of them eminent ones.

Notwithstanding centuries of debate on the question it never has been decided which is the mightier instrument, the pen or the sword; but at a time when wars and rumours of wars take up so much space in the news that good poetry is often crowded out, there is something heroic as well as sentimental in this little item from Tokyo.

An Encouraging Sign

In a recent address the President of the United States Steel Corporation, Mr. Clifford Hood, said that the Bible should be given a place in every home "no less prominent than the TV set".

One of the encouraging signs in these days of widespread fear and confusion is that leaders in industry in ever increasing numbers are speaking with personal conviction of the spiritual values which are inherent in the best Hebraic-Christian traditions.

Farm Trade Policies

One section of Mr. Abbott's budget speech, notes the Ottawa Citizen, made the point that while industry as a whole managed to fare not too badly in 1953, agriculture definitely went backward.

In the economic sky this warning appears as the cloud no larger than a man's hand. While it may not always prove so, major depressions in the past have generally found their origin in the state of agriculture.

lem. Grains, particularly wheat, are presently in surplus, and the national economy has not yet become so diversified that it can absorb without any noticeable shock the consequence of a slump in grain prices.

Only in enlightened trade policies is the solution to these still only moderate difficulties to be found. Mr. Abbott insists that all industries should pare their costs and put themselves in a position to meet real competition from abroad.

Canada alone can't assure its own prosperity. Policies of other countries directly affect this nation. Therefore if Canada is to hope to sell its own substantial surpluses of farm products abroad—and so help turn the wheels of secondary industry at home—it must be in the very forefront of the movement toward liberation of international trading policies.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Josephine Elizabeth Butler, English author and social reformer, was born this date 1828. She was at first chiefly interested in the movement for the higher education of women but later devoted most of her energies to the reclamation of "fallen" women.

Timing is everything in the task of keeping the economy in balance. Trade Minister Howe indicates that the Government agrees with the Opposition in increasing public works when necessary to step up employment and the economy generally.

It is reported that in British Columbia dairy farmers of the Lower Fraser Valley are trying to establish "a compulsory single spout system of milk control."

Britain is no longer determined to produce agricultural products at any cost. Although present production is 56 per cent higher than before the war and the objective is 60 per cent by 1956, it is now a major consideration to achieve high quality and low costs.

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In the West there is evidently less appreciation of the role of the R. C. A. F. than in the Maritimes. It is difficult to imagine a Maritimer taking the stand of Capt. A. R. Eddie, managing director of the Canadian Air Line Pilots' Association that military airports should be removed to remote areas where they will not interfere with the serious business of commercial flying.

The Fisheries Council of Canada's bulletin expresses regret that the budget did not provide for the Council's requested reductions in duty. There is comfort, however, in the reflection that two years ago the Council commented on a particularly unsatisfactory budget from a fisheries point of view and the matters of wire rope, cable and engines were dealt with the following year.

Calendar reform has met with objections from Britain on the basis that there does not appear to be any great public demand for the change. The United States delegate in the United Nations maintains that religious groups seem to be opposed to the idea. It would seem that unless the supporters of a World Calendar become considerably more active another generation will be learning the verse "Thirty days hath September..."



The Outlaws

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.

AGRICULTURAL AFFAIRS

Sir,—I am a farmer and grow about 8 acres of potatoes yearly on which we depend mainly for our cash income, and would like to express my opinion of the P. E. I. Federation of Agriculture and the Potato Marketing Board formed by it.

The F. of A. claims to have done great things for the farmers of P. E. I. Somewhere I can't think of anything. Whatever has been done, has been done by the Government and with the taxpayers' money, and those things had been advocated by individuals and groups of farmers, business men, shippers and the Board of Trade.

The P. M. B. was formed to handle and control the marketing of all our potatoes because some people claimed and tried to make some farmers believe that the shippers were making too much money and were doing a lot of price cutting.

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NOTES BY THE WAY

Just remember, when you turn green with envy you are ripe for trouble.—St. Catharines Standard.

Tact is the ability to think of things far enough ahead so as not to say them.—Kitchener-Waterloo Record.

"The trouble with spring plowing is that too often snowplows are necessary."—St. Thomas Times-Journal.

If you can't figure out what makes some people click it may be their false teeth.—Kitchener-Waterloo Record.

Skunks, (the lame variety, we mean), are not rare in Belleville. There are at least three homes in the city which brag of a pet skunk and one lady owns two.—Belleville Intelligencer.

"Arracacha" is a Brazilian vegetable with the flavor of asparagus, celery, carrots and parsnips. A tasty dish, it would seem, but a difficult one to order without sneezing your head off.—Ottawa Citizen.

Ever since man gained the power of speech, it seems, his commonest remark has been, "Things are not what they were in our young days." This forms the burden of one of the earliest recorded Egyptian wisdom books, and each successive generation on reaching and passing maturity has shaken a regretful head and said much the same thing.—Halifax Chronicle-Herald.

A recent statistic claims that farmers suffer more from heart ailments than men in other occupations. We are expecting an influx of men seeking refuge in the newspaper business from the hurly-burly of rural life.—Hamilton Spectator.

A retiring railway conductor in Parry Sound had kind words to say about traveling newlyweds the other day as he hung up his ticket punch after 43 years of railroad-punching. "Brides and bridegrooms were always ideal passengers. Never had any trouble with them," commented Mr. Herbert Cook, who claimed a mileage of more than 2,600,000 in his railway career.—Sudbury Star.

From the Royal Gazette, Nov. 15, 1836: "Queen's County, to wit: Charles McNeil, of the West River, and County aforesaid, maketh oath and saith—That he, this Deponent, has been charged with having, within three months last past, maimed an Ox belonging to Duncan McEwen, of the West River and County aforesaid, by cutting off the tail of the said Ox close to the rump; Now this Deponent, on his oath, declareth, that he never did, at any time or in any way, injure or disfigure the said Ox; and that the accusation, as it relates to this Deponent, is a vile fabrication, and without slightest foundation. (Sworn before B. De St. Croix, J.P., at Charlottetown.)"

LONDON, Ont. (CP)—A campaign against low-speed "Sunday" drivers was promised Monday by Inspector George V. Clubbe, of the Ontario provincial police. "The slow driver is the cause of as many accidents as that of the speeder," he said, "and we intend to open a drive against them."

Mount Edith Cavell in Alberta, named after the British nurse shot by the Germans in the First World War, towers 11,000 feet.

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The Passing Scene

By Observer

LAWNS AND GARDENS

Whatever the thermometer may say—it has been saying some unpleasant things since April came in—the time of the year has come when the fancies of young and old turn to thoughts of lawns, hedges, and gardens. Rakes are being removed from their winter hiding places; lawn mowers and shears are being oiled and sharpened; water hoses are being examined for possible and almost certain defects.

The popular view is that lawns cannot be given too much attention; the more they are mowed, rolled, raked, watered, the healthier and more attractive they will be. Many a man has got up early and stayed up late in order to make his lawn look more respectable than it was yesterday; a clipping here, a blade of grass out of place there, a little unevenness somewhere else, are signs and symptoms of disarray which cannot be tolerated for one moment.

Now comes a University professor, a specialist in turf management, to say that a great deal of the care usually devoted to lawns is unnecessary and much of it is downright harmful. He says that only in extended drought periods (which rarely, if ever, occur in this part of the world) should the loss be used and, even then, one good watering a week is quite enough. Too much water is as bad as too little; it takes up room intended for air and it may even drown the grass roots.

I expect all this expert advice will be good news for a lot of land owners; I know it will be for me. Many, many times in the past my hands have been pushing a mower or dragging a rake when my mind has been on a fishing stream many miles away. It saddens me to think of all the rainy south winds I have allowed to go unheeded, and all the fun I have denied myself, just because the voice of duty seemed to keep me trotting back and forth across a lawn and I didn't know enough about the scientific angle of it to let well enough alone.

Well, from now on I am going to follow the best expert advice. It will be wonderful to be able to let the grass grow without my feeling a sense of guilt and indecency. It is too late now to undo all the harm I have done to lawns in the mistaken idea that I was helping them out but at least

CHICAGO, (AP)—Aides to Most Rev. Bernard J. Shell, Roman Catholic Auxiliary Bishop of Chicago, said Monday response to his criticism of Senator Joseph McCarthy has been 9 to 1 in the bishop's favor. Bishop Shell called McCarthy a "phony" anti-Communist and asserted his tactics undermined democracy.

The Age Old Story

They shall be ashamed, and also confounded, all of them: they shall go to confusion together that are makers of idols. But Israel shall be saved in the Lord with an everlasting salvation: ye shall not be ashamed nor confounded world without end.

9 TO 1 FOR BISHOP

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DRIVING

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