

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 30, 1952

The Sabre Jets

Today a composite squadron of R. C. A. F. jet fighters commences its four-week tour of Eastern Canada by fly-pasts at Summerside, Charlottetown and Sydney, being over this city at 9:35 a.m. One of the squadrons represented in the group of twelve aircraft is Canada's No. 439 Tigre Squadron based at Uplands, near Ottawa, which is expected to make history by flying its 600-m.p.h. Canadian built fighters to England to join the two Canadian squadrons already there.

It was indeed an inspiration to hold such a tour. In earlier days fighting men went off to war to the accompaniment of martial music, paraded through cheering throngs to train or ship which would carry them where duty called. That aspect of military service has tended to be neglected, together with all types of pomp and ceremony. When a whole people are engaged in a life and death struggle it is perhaps unnecessary, but when relatively small numbers are called upon to bear the brunt of fighting or preparedness it is highly desirable that their efforts be dramatized.

Emergency Powers In The U.S.

A very great stir has been caused in the United States by President Truman's seizure of the steel industry to prevent the mills being shut down at a critical time. The Government argument that the chief executive has unlimited power under the constitution to act to preserve the safety of the nation probably has much more to do with the uproar than the actual seizure.

Canada too has its doctrine of emergency powers, not always consistently interpreted by the Courts. The royal prerogative is much more precisely defined here than is that claimed by the American President. But whether the representatives of the Crown have the legal powers or not, they have a solemn duty to take whatever measures may be necessary to deal with an emergency. When the emergency is over they may hope to have their acts ratified by the appropriate legislative authority and be personally indemnified against legal consequences of their actions. If Parliament, or the Provincial Legislature, be not convinced that the measures taken were essential it could go hard for those responsible.

Highway Accidents

At the recent session of the Legislature much concern was expressed over the increasing number of highway accidents. This is a good time now to take stock of the situation for the coming tourist season, when traffic will be at its peak. Last year the Attorney General's Department issued salutary warnings to the motoring public, and it is to be hoped these will be continued on a more extensive scale all during the season. Other Provinces are taking measures along the same line, and seeking other means of grappling with the problem.

In a message to the Ontario Motor League, Highway Minister George Doucett urges that a safety program take precedence in the public service activities of the league this year. In 1951, he says, 949 persons had been killed on Ontario highways, more than 22,000 had been injured, and property damage had amounted to over \$18,000,000. To date this year the increase in deaths alone has been 17 per cent, which carries with it the threat of over a thousand lives being lost in motor accidents in the Province during 12 months. This is an appalling figure, but it is to be remembered highway fatalities in Prince Edward Island last year numbered twenty—an all-time record which we certainly do not want to see duplicated.

Much of the trouble, comments the Globe and Mail, lies in the fatalistic acceptance by the general public of motor accidents and highway deaths as an inevitable part of modern life. That and the failure to make provision for the proper training of prospective new drivers or the condition of vehicles for which licenses are issued. "The highways are crowded today with vehicles driven by persons who have had little or no training, who appear to think that any sloppy practice they can get away with is allowable. Until such time as drivers learn more than simply how to push an accelerator and turn the steering wheel highway slaughter will continue to mount." Ontario is not the only province to

which this commentary might be applied. And as our Toronto contemporary points out, it is doubtful if talk alone will bring about any worthwhile improvement. There have been safety campaigns and safety talk since the motor car was invented and yearly the toll of dead and injured mounts. It should be fairly apparent by now that something better is needed.

Victoria Day

The House of Commons has agreed in principle that after this year Victoria Day should be celebrated on May 24 when that date comes on a Monday, and in other years on the Monday preceding May 24.

"There is merit in this change," comments the Ottawa Journal. "The trend of the times is towards shorter working weeks and longer week-ends of leisure, and we can move the celebration of Queen Victoria's birthday (to give our short out-door season one more long week-end) without impinging on our sentimental memory of the Good Queen. The situation is that within a space of about five weeks we have three statutory holidays—Victoria Day, the celebration of Queen Elizabeth's birthday on June 9, and Dominion Day on July 1. Are all these necessary?"

The Journal suggests that observance of the birthday of Queen Elizabeth, since it is not to be set for the actual date of her birth, should be merged with the Victoria celebration.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Tomorrow is May Day and means many things to many people. To Islanders, it is the opening of the Lobster season.

Now that the Coronation date has been fixed for a year from June 2nd the matter of who shall attend and in what capacity assumes importance.

More than 600 representatives of the fur trade from coast to coast gather in Montreal next week for a preview of next year's trends in showings of private style collections.

In 1951, 36,000 visitors from Canada and 138,000 from the United States, together with other residents of the Western Hemisphere, spent about \$70 million in the United Kingdom.

Mr. W. F. A. Stewart's unfortunate accident will confine him to bed for some weeks, but not, it is hoped, disable him from presiding at the Legislative committee hearings on the railway bus proposals in June.

Rural beautification could well be promoted as being the means of increasing the revenue from the tourist trade but probably the greater incentive is a personal pride in making one's own community a more satisfying place in which to live.

Threatening to bring Agriculture Minister Gardiner before the bar of the House serves at least one purpose, that of highlighting dramatically the Minister's failure to comply with Parliament's request to table all the papers concerning the outbreak of foot-and-mouth disease in Saskatchewan.

Small universities have their attraction, but as pointed out by an educationalist who visited this country recently, they cannot provide the specialized staff or resources of a great university. A system of junior colleges feeding a very few universities would be more advantageous.

Alfred Edward Housman, English Latinist and poet, died this date 1936. He published "A Shropshire Lad" in 1896 and his "Last Poems" in 1922, and "More Poems", posthumously, in 1936. Housman had the secret of creating beauty by scrupulous elimination of the decorative ornamental.

Prince Edward Island led the way in C. N. R. dieselization and now the Railway has launched a five year program for conversion from steam to diesels across Canada. Coincidentally it is seeking to inaugurate its new passenger bus transport system in this Province, with advantages both in speed and economy which may also have far reaching effects in other parts of the country.

There will be plaudits for the gunners of the 2nd Regiment Royal Canadian Horse Artillery who have achieved a record both for time in the firing line and in the amount of shelling it has carried out. On the other hand there is needed an explanation of why these records, particularly the first, should have been needed. This country should have learned in two years the importance of providing adequate relief for troops in action.

The Fly Past



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.

TEACHER TRAINING

Sir,—May I add a few comments to the many views expressed in The Guardian regarding the training of those preparing for the teaching profession. Granted, some are born teachers, but naturally the more training they receive the more proficient they become. Then our very good teachers of the by-gone days would have been excellent with a good course in teacher training. If she knows a successful method of presenting certain ideas to her pupils, a teacher finds the task comparatively easy; she has her work well-planned and has a firm grounding on which to build for better work.

As good Dr. Phillips told us, our teacher training course is fine, just as it is, until such time as we see our way clear to improve it. Then why should someone try to lower its standard? I myself took a year of teacher training at Prince of Wales College and I cannot picture myself teaching without this one year of training. Neither can my other young teacher friends. In fact some of them who had taught school on a permit before taking teacher training now squirm when they recall their experiences. I have taught in the one-room school, and in the graded school, and in both cases I feel I could have done a better job with more professional training. To me, to know the work one intends to teach is the easy part; the hard part is to know how to study one's pupils, and how best to impart the knowledge we have.

But we have much for which to be thankful. Prospective teachers can come to Prince of Wales College for one year of training. The children of poorer parents have besides the \$1000 grant given to all teacher trainees, the right to borrow \$200 from the government. This amount pays their way in Charlottetown for a year. Hence they go out ready to earn a good salary without their education having been too much expense for their parents. The bonus money is paid back during their first two years of teaching—\$100 each year. While awaiting a more extensive course in teacher training let us not forget to be very grateful to our Government for what we have.

I am, Sir, etc. A FIRST-CLASS TEACHER, Charlottetown.

FURTHER FERTILIZER FACTS

Sir,—In previous letter discussing specific farm problems, reference was made to the excessive cost of commercial fertilizers as being one of the most formidable annual expenditures the farmer has to contend with and it was suggested farmers were not getting near maximum returns for their investment. This is due mainly to two causes: first, because of the prevailing practise of supplying chemical nutrients in their raw state—undissolved; and second, misuse of fertilizer by applying to crops that only occasionally sell at a profit. The application of dry chemicals to the soil is basically unsound, as in that formation they are not available for plant nourishment and cannot become so until dissolved or liquified. Experience has taught, when this job is left to vagaries of the weather, it is too frequently a delayed process and much of the chemical potential becomes exhausted during the interval. The laws of nature are inexorable and cannot accommodate conformity to human desire or suggestion. If the season is destined to be a dry or moderately dry one, man cannot counter command; if the reverse, that weather will prevail, regardless of results. The use of chemical nutrients in their natural or dry state is a gamble and during the years farmers have lost hundreds of thousands of dollars because they failed to estimate correctly. Man cannot complain in this respect, so long as there is an alternative

The Age-Old Story

Thus therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also. Consider what I say; and the Lord give thee understanding in all things.

that carries with it, practically, an assurance of beneficial results, and there definitely is such an alternative. Science has long since recognized this possibility in agricultural pursuits. Scientific research has discovered that man is not entirely dependent upon nature in this respect; that the art of converting solid chemicals inaccessible to their natural state for plant nourishment—into liquids that become immediately available, is within his orbit and scientific experimentation has conclusively proven its practicability.

When providence has endowed man with ability to do a job for himself, there is no justification for placing the responsibility upon nature. Originally nature placed within the good earth all elements necessary to produce abundant growth and made provision for an annual replacement of seasonal chemical withdrawals. Man depleted all this through unfair farming practices and now it has become his responsibility to make amends if he is to survive. Chemical research and experiment has further discovered and confirmed the fact that plant nourishment through foliage and other over-ground growth is not at all restricted to what nature has been credited with providing through air and sunshine action. The feasibility of supplementary plant feeding through this medium, when atmospheric elements are at a low ebb, is equally practical with that of root feeding, where the soil has become depleted in its fertility; in fact more so, as foliage feeding can be effectively administered throughout the growing season when and as required.

This practice is proving popular in many areas of Canada and has proven valuable in connection with all cultivated growth without exception. This method gives the operator complete control over his fertilizer expenditures. By using liquid plant food in spray form, nothing is wasted; it is all readily absorbed through the plant pores and in a matter of a few hours after application, is at the job of plant nourishing and hastening growth and maturity.

The use of chemical fertilizers is definitely part and parcel of successful farm operations and if used sanely, in harmony with nature and according to methods proven by competent experiment and practice, will make farming a more profitable occupation. Any variation from the practical will only serve to place the operation in the realm of uncertainty. Fertilizing is absolutely essential in view of the prevailing depletion of soil fertility in evidence throughout the Province. It is profitable because it will vastly increase the yield and volume of production and improve the quality of the product to which it is applied. But there is no other way by which a disastrous financial situation can be brought about more rapidly than by its misuse. Soil analysis and thorough acquaintance with its chemical requirements will prove a great factor in fertilizing economy.

Every farmer should be able to analyse his own soil, at least with respect to its main three essentials. Beyond that, more expert determination of soil needs is advisable. An adjustment of the present fertilizer problem is definitely within every farmer's reach. Dependable information is available through agricultural departments and from private sources and there is no necessity for being exploited, if the farmer is prepared to take advantage of opportunities now available.

It is said that in small European countries such as Holland and Denmark, where agriculture holds sway as a means of livelihood, nothing offered or proposed, in the

The Poet's Corner

OPERATION "WHEELBARROW"

Out beyond the Bon Cher river, North of Fembroke and of Renfrew, Lies the camp called Petawawa.

There the Ottawas and Simcoes Have their wigwams and their teepees.

There the braves from far Toronto Mingie with the lesser tribesmen.

To them crafty Wantumwampum Came with four civilian helpers. Came equipped with axe and crowbar;

And for portage a wheelbarrow: To remove whatever happened To be insecurely anchored.

All was done in name of freedom, Freedom to remove belongings, The result of higher taxes. To dispose for plenty wampum Goods and chattels of the neighbours.

Thus did mighty Wantumwampum And his four civilian helpers Out beyond the Bon Cher river At the camp called Petawawa.

—"Geoff" in the Montreal Gazette.

Old Charlottetown

(And P. E. I.)

"NEW ERA" LAUNCHED

"On Saturday morning last, from the shipyard of Hon. D. Gordon, a full-rigged brigantine was launched, called the 'New Era', of 315 tons, N.M., copper fastened, and classed A.1 at Lloyd's for five years. She is almost ready for sea, and is partly owned by Captain William Gordon, who is expected here in a few days to take command. The 'New Era' was built under the supervision of Mr. Peter McLaren, Brudenell River, who has been a successful shipbuilder for the past forty years. The launch was almost the best we have witnessed, as she dashed from her elevated position into the briny wave, for the distance of 500 yards; she was then warped to her station at the wharf, to receive the balance of her outfit, preparatory to leaving for a foreign voyage.

"We presume the name of this vessel was suggested by the introduction and successful carrying through Parliament, of the Railway Bill, and it must be evident to all that a New Era is inaugurated in the history of P. E. Island, and we trust in the prosperity of King's County." —Georgetown Advocate, Nov. 9, 1871.

Interest of farming is ever turned down without being subjected to thorough testing of its possibilities. Junior farm organizations generally attend to such matters on a co-operative basis. If found of potential value to agriculture, it is accepted, if not, it is bypassed at a minimum of expense for the experiment. In this way, many matters of advantage to the industry are discovered and adopted that might otherwise be summarily dismissed by the sceptical and incredulous. I am, Sir, etc. J. A. GILLIES Charlottetown.

COMPLETE VISUAL REFRACTION and ANALYSIS

G. F. HUTCHESON & SON

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Notes By The Way

A gang of boys with 22 rifles and BB guns stood beside the railway bridge over the canal at the eastern edge of town and took pot shots at the CPR Ottawa-Toronto train as it slowed down for the station. Some slugs went through a dining car window, but fortunately nobody was hurt. Just good clean fun; no harm intended, of course.—(Peterborough Examiner.)

General Douglas MacArthur—who bruises rather easily—must be just a little miffed by the rate of progress on his monument in Tokyo. After the former supreme commander was dismissed last Spring a group of Japanese started a \$1,400,000 monument to him. In nine months they have managed to raise \$225, and even the professional fund-raising agency stands to lose money. The objective was \$1,400,000. This will be a terrible disillusionment, not so much, perhaps, to the general himself, as to his American admirers.—(Edmonton Journal.)

Peronism, Argentina's current malady, manages to swing from the sublime to the ridiculous in its attempts to make world headlines. Some months back it was claiming a great advance in peacetime use of atomic energy; a development that went farther than anything announced in the United States, Canada or Britain. Dictator Peron was shown pinning a medal on a German scientist who allegedly had made that atomic ten-strike. But nothing has been heard of it since. Now Peronism has a new achievement to hail, and a new hero, or rather two of them. They're a couple of billiard sharks who played for 86 consecutive hours, "Meritorius effort" is the Peron judgment. The merit seems to derive from the players' foresight in dedicating their silly marathon to the dictator and his wife. The ready recognition merely demonstrates again how that husband-and-wife acting team revels in flattery.—(Windsor Star.)

Everyone interested in a quick and permanent end to Deukhobor troubles in B.C. will fervently hope the Sons of Freedom find a new home in South America. Federal and Provincial Governments would undoubtedly add to the \$87,000 Freedoms have given leader Stefan Sorokin to buy land if a definite emigration program is set up. One-day tickets to Patagonia would be a wonderful investment. This would be the ideal solution to the violence 2,000 Freedoms have inflicted on the Kootenays for 30 years. It would be much

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