

THE GUARDIAN

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"The Strongest Memory is Weaker Than the Weakest Ink"

CHARLOTTETOWN, THURSDAY, SEPT. 27, 1951

Abuse Of Reservations

The practice of travellers making reservations for hotel, sleeping car and aircraft accommodation is most important to the comfort and convenience of travel. It helps to level off the peaks and slumps in the use of these facilities and assures the traveller that he will be able to obtain the services he requires.

Another use of the system has nothing to commend it. The practice of firms and individuals booking travel accommodation merely as a precaution and habitually cancelling the unused space at the last moment is an intolerable nuisance. It means that those who are actually travelling frequently find everything booked up, although if they take a chance they often find plentiful accommodation through last minute cancellations.

Organizations which cater to the travelling public would do well to note instances of such habitual abuse of their services and take action to protect those who are actually travelling rather than merely assuring themselves of accommodation in case they should want it.

Insecticides Debated

The use of poisonous chemicals in the growing and processing of food was debated in the British House of Lords and in the Commons recently. Lord Douglas's speech, according to the London Economist, sounded like one of those recitations of fearful portents with which Shakespeare built up dramatic tension. DDT had been found in mother's milk; human teeth placed in a glass of cola rapidly dissolved; a cow treated with penicillin yielded milk which would not turn to cheese, and though it was mixed with the milk of 200 other cows still no crumb of cheese resulted.

In the House of Commons Dr. Stross was rather less horrific. He questioned whether the Government had adequate powers to deal with the use of chemical "additives" in food. At present the Minister of Food has power to prohibit the use of any substance in food manufacture, but he rarely exercises the power. Otherwise, the manufacturer can add what he likes until it is proved harmful—although he would never reject the advice of food inspectors. Dr. Stross thought that the burden of proof should be on the manufacturer to show that any chemical which he proposed to add was harmless.

Unfortunately, comments the Economist, conclusive tests often require prolonged research. Meanwhile the use of chemical fertilizers and insecticides is essential to the expansion of world food supplies; and neither in production nor in processing is there any evidence that they are having a bad effect on general health or that they are a cause of poisoning. Of 2,431 outbreaks in 1949 (the latest year for which complete figures are published) only three were caused by chemical agents, and then there had been mistakes such as storing fruit salad in a zinc bath.

Soviet Farm Taxes

Soviet farmers are squirming at increased taxation. Russia has just made public changes in her agricultural tax rates. The agricultural tax is that which is exacted from collective farmers, largely on incomes from their personal land allotments. The new rates, which went into effect July 1, provide for slightly-increased taxes. The lowest brackets—up to 2,000 rubles annual income—now will pay a tax at the rate of 12 per cent, compared with the previous 11 per cent. (The Soviet Union values the ruble at 25 cents, but its value in terms of purchasing power is far less.) The highest surtax bracket now pay 48 per cent on income over 8,000 rubles a year, compared with the previous 45 per cent. The agricultural tax is a direct tax on the peasant population, and makes up only a small part of taxes exacted from farmers. However, the tax on the peasants is at a rate much greater than that imposed on city workers.

Plastics

Much attention was paid at Britain's air show recently to a block of plastic. It is being tested for the qualities needed in aircraft construction and, if satisfactory, will undoubtedly revolutionize production. There is already a bewildering variety of plastics with differing characteristics but

the common feature they possess is ease of manufacture.

As compared with the fabrication of steel, plastics may be utilized using equipment that is light and inexpensive. Their influence on production has been and will increasingly be to stimulate the growth of industry in the smaller communities. The premium is on ideas for their use rather than on the existence of plant for their manufacture.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Farmers are advised to pick potatoes in warm sunny weather but the trick seems to be to pick the weather.

Butter stocks in the big consuming centres still show a falling off. The cream must be going to the manufacture of ice cream.

Snow as far east as Timmins, Ont., is a gentle reminder that our crops should be safely garnered by Oct. 8, Harvest Thanksgiving.

The allied invitation to Germany to raise an army will bring approval but scarcely enthusiasm. Communist aggression makes strange bedfellows.

The Stockton and Darlington Railway, with George Stephenson as engineer, was opened this date 1825. The highest speed attained by this first railway was 15 miles per hour.

In thirty-three years the Women's Institutes of Prince Edward Island have grown to 300 in number, but that is the least of their achievements. They have been a force for progress in every rural community in which they become established.

The Post Office and Transport Department are to join in providing a mail service by helicopter to nine Ottawa valley towns. Perhaps mail-by-truck in this Province will be considered obsolete before it goes into operation the first of next month.

It seems ironic that when colour has at last become readily available for every purpose there should be the probability that white clothing will be in demand in the larger and vulnerable centres because of the superior protection it offers against burns from the A-bomb.

The grave closes this morning over the remains of Mr. Guy Scott, probably for years one of the best known citizens, due to his long association with the Victory Loan Campaigns and his former occupation as an accountant which brought him into association with numerous fellow citizens and hotel patrons.

Grim warnings that housing construction has lagged in Canada really mean that industrial expansion has been improprietly concentrated in particular areas. It seemed logical to give defence orders to industrial areas but the detail of taking care of the transplanted workers and their families was seemingly overlooked.

For at least the next two months, "Mrs. Canada" will find it easier to balance her housekeeping budget by buying Grade "A" quality eggs in the lighter weights, medium size and pullet or small size as the pullet eggs are now called. These lighter weight Grade "A" quality eggs are being produced by the young pullets hatched earlier this year and will be coming on the market in increasing volume during the next two months.

Are we progressing and prospering? According to the Bureau of Statistics, yes. Industrial employment and payrolls both reached record levels at July 1, according to returns from 22,000 of the larger industrial establishments across Canada. The index number of employment, on the basis of 1935-39 equals 100, stood at 183.4 compared with 180.3 at June 1 and 170.8 a year earlier. Index of weekly payrolls was 391.7 against 379.0 at June 1, and 382.3 on July 1 last year.

Gift clothing is the main supplemental source of clothing received by the average family, according to a recent survey made by the Bureau of Human Nutrition and Home Economics of the United States Department of Agriculture. Most popular gift items for men are mufflers, scarves, handkerchiefs, house slippers, neckwear, gloves, pajamas, sweaters and business and sports shirts. For women—handkerchiefs, aprons, smocks, nightgowns, robes, housecoats, negligees, pajamas, house slippers, gloves, slips and sweaters. Only one-fifth of the girls and one-eighth of the boys acquired one or more made-over garments, but children received more new clothing as gifts than men or women. About one-fourth of the total value of new clothing acquired by girls was given to them; about one-fifth by boys.

Old Charlottetown

(AND P. E. I.) MELANCHOLY ACCIDENT

A recent article in The Guardian told of the re-discovery of an old pioneer cemetery at Stanhope, mention being made of an Auld man who had been killed in a mill and been buried there in the 1840's. Subsequently Mr. W. N. Shaw, of Vancouver, a former Prince Edward Islander, identified this man as Robert Auld of Covehead. The information given in Mr. Shaw's interesting letter, which appeared in the Public Forum of Aug. 25 last, is substantiated by the following obituary notice from The Islander of Sept. 14, 1849:

"Died, on Wednesday, the 5th inst., at Cove Head, in the thirty-first year of his age, Mr. Robert Auld, jr., miller, who came to his end under the following distressing circumstances:—While the deceased was employed in his mills, at an early hour on the previous Saturday morning, and the mill being in full operation, he very incautiously went in among the machinery, to replace something that had got out of its place, and in so doing, came in contact with the cog of the spur and nut wheels, which passed directly over his breast; so dreadfully was he bruised and mutilated, that medical aid, procured without delay, proved of no avail, and death put an end to his excruciating sufferings as above stated.

"It is seldom our lot to record the death of a young man more generally beloved and esteemed. He has left a widowed mother, brothers and sister, and a large circle of friends to mourn for one they can never call back. This should be a warning to the young as well as to the aged to prepare to meet their God. "Danger stands thick thro' all the ground."

To push us to the tomb, And fierce diseases wait around, To hurry mortals home."

Cash-And-Carry Milk

Premier Frost, of Ontario, proposes cash-and-carry milk as one way of checking rising milk prices, and the Toronto Globe and Mail supports him with this: "Facing much the same packaging problems as the dairy companies, the soft drink companies have built up an elaborate and highly efficient system of store distribution which makes it the easiest thing in the world to buy a bottle of ice-cold pop—at a competitive price. It should be equally easy to buy a bottle of fresh milk—also at a competitive price. The fact that it is not suggests that the dairy industry must relearn the art of merchandising."

The patent fallacy of this, of course, is that the mother of a family of three small children doesn't have to buy them a bottle of pop, and on each day, a bottle of milk. Would the Globe and Mail have the mother travel perhaps a mile or more in dead of winter zero weather to buy this bottle of milk—leaving the small children alone in her absence?

In our Canadian cities there are ten of thousands of families living long distances from grocery stores; in some suburban districts, in fact, there are no grocery stores.

There is no mystery about milk prices going higher. The farmer hasn't begun to get rich and the distributor richer; all that is happening is that the farmer is paying more for his help and the distributor more for his drivers. Consequently and inevitably, both the farmer and the distributor must get more for milk. And this is what is happening all down the price-line. Wages and prices are in a race; unless both are controlled, the race will probably go on.

The Gipsy's Camp

The gipsy's camp was in the cove. Three felted tents, with beehive tops, And round black marks where fires had been, And the old wagon, painted green, And three ribbed horses wrenching grass, And three wild boys to watch me pass. And one old woman by the fire, Hurling a rabbit warm from wire, I loved to see the horses bait, I felt I walked at Heaven's gate, That Heaven's gate was opened wide Yet still the gipsies camped outside. The waste souls will prefer the wild Long after life is meek and mild. Perhaps when man has entered in His perfect city free from sin, The campers will come past the walls With old lame horses full of galls, And wagons hung about with wiles, And burning coke in tinker's stithies, And see the golden town, and choose, And think the wild too good to lose, And camp outside, as these camped then, With wonder at the entering men. —John Massfield.

The Age-Old Story

Thou shalt not kill. Thou shalt not commit adultery. Thou shalt not steal.

At The Provincial Proving Grounds



Notes By The Way

In Toronto a motorist was fined \$50 for travelling at 80 miles per hour in a 30-mile suburban zone, going through two traffic lights, forcing a couple of motorists into the ditch. It is interesting to observe that this reckless fellow operates a school where safe driving is taught. —Ottawa Journal.

Charlie Gibson, who is seven and lives in St. Louis, found \$250, lost by an ice cream company. His reward was all the free ice cream he could eat for one month. He makes a practice of dropping into the company once or twice a day and having an ice cream soda, a banana split and then an ice cream cone to eat on the way home. He is half way through his one-month reward, has gained a pound and a half in weight, and still has a lively appetite for ice cream. —New York Herald Tribune.

Each year, just about this time in September, somebody says: "Well, guess the tourist season is over again." And we look around in the midst of Northern Ontario's most beautiful season and find that it's the truth. The visitors are gone, traffic lessens noticeably every day, the "No Vacancies" signs are few and far between along the highway. The clerk from Cleveland, and the salesman from Toronto and the New York banker have come and gone, leaving us of the northland alone to enjoy this gorgeous season when the north country hits its prime. —North Bay Nugget.

The brewery workers of Western Canada are getting worried about their beer. They claim it is being undermined by the heavy stuff which comes in here from Ontario. Meeting in Lethbridge, the Brewing, Malt, Soft Drink and Allied Trades Union men said the sale of Ontario beer is a serious threat to the Western brewing industry. If the threat is as serious as some delegates claimed, representations are to be made to the provincial government to have the Ontario beer banned altogether or at least severely controlled. —Calgary Herald.

In fiscal 1950, there were 44 attempts on the life of President Truman. In fiscal 1951 there were 85 and 3,629 persons were questioned about letters and telephone calls they made to the White House. What's the score for

Prime Minister St. Laurent and Governor General Alexander? The deputy commissioner of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police says there have been no attempts on the life of either man in the past two years "unless it's something we don't know about — no threatening letters, phone calls, no suspicious characters — nothing of the kind." We leave readers to their own reflections. — Financial Post.

Most newspapermen can sympathize with the Shanghai editor—and enjoy his predicament a bit just the same. It is a most awkward position to be in, to have to explain why he was scooped on a handout from Stalin himself. It went to the business office first and stayed there. His anguished apology and admission of "grave political error" are natural reactions. Heads have been lopped off for no worse errors of omission, and in Communist eyes it would be a political error to have even an errand boy around any department of a newspaper who didn't appreciate the newsworthiness of anything over Stalin's signature. We are led at the same time to reflect on the apparent similarities among newspaper organizations on both sides of the Iron Curtain. How many ulcers have been bred much nearer than Shanghai by messengers that strayed and dallied under unseeing eyes while deadlines loomed! — Montreal Star.

In its report last spring the Royal Commission on Arts, Letters and Science emphasized the influence of the American way of life in this country. In their study the commissioners, holding to the purpose of their inquiry, which was limited to the field of culture generally, as a consequence analyzed the effects here of the influence of printed matter, the radio and, above all, the movies. But this influence does not end there; it extends to many other areas of human activity. American civilization penetrates here by a hundred different doors. This influence which establishes a kind of dependence against which it is necessary to react, does not signify that we must hermetically seal all the points of entry. Given the fact that this influence is of daily occurrence, it is necessary to defend ourselves against it without descending into xenophobia, to know this civilization in order to be able to judge it objectively. —L'Action Catholique, Quebec.

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Lessons From Europe In Community Progress

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THE BUOYANT ENGLISH SPIRIT

On a later visit to London, we went to the British museum, on which several volumes have been written. Perhaps the most interesting item which we came across was an original copy of the Magna Carta. And speaking of museums if you really want to see statesmen, sportsmen, politicians, comedians and men of all ranks, in person, visit Madame Tussaud's wax museum. The life-size figures of the most famous people since 1780 can be seen there. Churchill is there with his cigar, Roosevelt with his cane, Henry VIII surrounded by all his wives, and our own Barbara Ann Scott, even Joe Stalin is there.

You might visit the Chamber of Horrors, (preferably after consultation with your physician) where are reproduced the greatest collection of murderers, assassins, thieves and liars of all time. But to really appreciate art in all its forms, visit the Wallace collection, in one of the old residential sections of London. There we found a most impressive collection of old furniture, desks, chairs, rugs and a priceless collection of paintings from all over western Europe. Here, a mixture of English and French culture illustrates the tastes, the outlook, the luxury and living conditions of the upper class, English and French, in the days before the Industrial Revolution.

Europeans appreciate those things. They are part of their lives, music, sculpture, paintings of all kinds. It gave us a strange feeling, and we were puzzled. "Why are we different? Where is the break that made such a change in our outlook?" I remember standing there before an old dining room suite of the seventeenth century and pondering these questions.

Was it really that our forefathers had such a hard time after they came to Canada, chopping out a space in the forest, clearing the land and making a home for themselves, that they had not time for those little but very important things? Was it because of their trials and hardships, that they built homes for shelter, disregarding design and beauty? Was there no time or was it not important in building up a new country to give some attention to the things they knew and loved at home? Or is it the greed and the rush and the pressure of our modern age that blinds us to everything but utility and profits?

Is it the fault of the present, or of the last two generations? Do we now have time to give more attention to beauty, painting, music, and decoration, or are these little things in our modern times no longer important? Should we continue to devote all our time, our money and our energy to science, to the development of more modern machinery and devices? But the crowds had moved on. I was still wondering and still am.

I got my bursary arrangements completed and Mary, after filling in a sheaf of forms, got permission to teach on a temporary permit. We took the train to Nottingham. It was a lovely evening for this, our first sight of rural England. The passengers of the train were genial. We told them we were strangers, and they explained the lay of the country, the industries of the different towns, and many other items of interest as we travelled along.

It was dark when we reached Leicester and the yellow street lights of Nottingham stood out as we entered the Queen City of the Midlands. The night was cool, but we had a rather nice hotel and we were now getting used to the gas heaters with the penny slots. We took a walk "up town" to see our home of the next ten months.

A taxi driver told us that it was only a small town of some 200,000 people, adding "But you'll like it". And we did, even more so after we got settled down. It was no trouble to get a teaching position. "In fact," they said, "You can start tomorrow."

The next problem was digs. "Have you any digs?" they said. Our ignorance of the problem of "digs" must have been evident for they added at once, "You don't know digs? Well, you will before you find any in this town." That didn't help much either. "I'd like to stay," they explained. This was one of our first new terms. But we were lucky. We got digs temporarily, and later on a nice room with house-keeping facilities. I spent most of the week at the Cooperative College but, except when travelling, came home for the weekends.

We were now settled, but still had to learn the little day-by-day customs of a different country. There were identity cards, ration books, and medical cards. Then one must learn to "queue" for you have to queue for almost everything, and the most discourteous thing of all is to jump the queue. Someone once described England as a country overflowing with queues and custards.

That may not be completely accurate, but there are plenty of both. People seem to enjoy lining up and waiting for things. We heard many supposedly true stories of people queuing up during wartime, not knowing what was at the other end. There are stories of big department stores, lining up their clerks in the street before opening time and then, after the lineup behind them got big enough, moving in one by one and preparing for a big morning's business.

Is food scarce? According to our standards, yes. Are the people hungry? No. Often I could have eaten more, but I gained ten pounds in five months. People in England eat more starchy foods and have plenty of good milk all the year around. Milk is well distributed. Children of the poor, young men, and others who need it get it free or at a cheaper rate. There are plenty of excursions during the summer months and they have various ways of providing them. Meat is rationed, but there is always some. Those who want it can afford it can always buy ham and chicken. Although rationed, too, there is always a large supply of what are called sausages, containing about forty percent meat and about sixty percent bread crumbs. They are good after you get used to them. There are always potatoes, cabbage, brussels sprouts, and you can get a good meal of roast lamb and mint sauce in the restaurants. Fish is no longer rationed and is quite plentiful although it has become quite expensive since it was taken off the control list. And of course they have tea; in the morning, in the afternoon, and several times in between. It seemed strange at first, but we were introduced to the idea of tea and cakes while on the boat, and it soon became part of our routine. All desserts, whether they be puddings, jam, jelly or pudding are topped with custard. Chocolates or "sweets" are rationed, and each person just has to buy his full allowance each period. To chew gum is uncultured so it is not sold or used. Tooth picks are not rationed, and you must be sure to use your fork in the left hand and your knife in the right. There is a lot of ice cream, but it is not made from cream or even milk. It is cold and looks good, but it is actually made from ginger ale and rice or corn flour. But after we got "jipped" on our money a few times, missed tea for a couple of days, and almost got knocked over by some of those small cars, flying low on the wrong side of the street, we got into the swing of things. And we got into the spirit of the thing too. There is the feeling that this is a recovery period and everyone is expected to do his share. You accept small sacrifices and learn to take advantage of the entertainment and the pleasures and all the good things that are still to be had. The understanding British housewife will tell you that she enjoys making new things, that she can prepare very tasty dishes to stretch out the available meat. She can set out a nourishing meal from tidbits that are carelessly wasted where there is an abundance of food. The majority of the ladies are thrifty and nutrition-minded, but then, of course, there are many who are content to let the children fill up on several cups of tea with rolls, cakes, bread and jam—not because they couldn't have had plenty and proper food, but because their mothers were too lazy, or too tired to prepare something better. Many women are so self-satisfied that they let things slide or put off doing them until it reaches a point where some drastic action must be taken. Many others, perhaps the great majority of us young mothers today, have to work part or full-time to enhance the family income, and thereby maintain their families in spite of all the educational work done, and all the information distributed, and take advantage of the free cod liver oil, milk, or health information available. In general, conditions in England today are good. There is little or no unemployment. The old class distinctions and economic differences are rapidly fading away. The incomes of working men and of the so-called higher classes are being levelled out. The new educational system is giving the children of the poorer people a chance to get an education and is providing help and encouragement to those inclined towards learning a trade. More que weeks had passed, and a couple of weeks had passed, and the que was settled down. I to a college life with an international atmosphere, and Mary to her teaching in one of the big city schools. (To be continued)

LOWEST SPOT

The Dead Sea in the Jordan valley, 1,290 feet below sea level, is the lowest land area on the globe.

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