

THE GUARDIAN

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"The Strongest Memory is Weaker Than the Weakest Ink"

CHARLOTTETOWN, SATURDAY, JULY 14, 1951

Massey Report Under Fire

Spokesmen for private radio stations have not been slow in pointing out the weak spots in the Massey Commission report on Arts, Letters and Sciences, particularly in its support of CBC bureaucracy, its scorn of "commercialism", and its apparent indifference to freedom of speech and the rights of private enterprise.

The most serious charge levelled against the report is that it will, if implemented, put "almost all forms of mass communication right into the hands of government."

The report pays lip service to the need of keeping the national radio tree from political influence, but its recommendations all run the other way. The Federal Cabinet already appoints and may replace at will the governors of the CBC; it appoints and pays and may replace the general manager and chairman.

The private station spokesmen are assertive in their claims. It is not more, they say, but less paternalism that is needed in this country, and culture, whether indigenous or imported, cannot well be developed without freedom of thought and expression.

N. B. Conservative Leader

New Brunswick Conservatives are warmly commended by the Moncton Times on their choice of a new party leader for the Province in the person of Mr. Hugh John Flemming, M.L.A. for Carleton County.

Mr. Flemming is a son of the late Hon. J. K. Flemming, for many years a leading figure in New Brunswick in both the provincial and Federal fields.

The new Conservative leader is fifty-two years of age—just two years older than Mr. R. R. Bell, who leads the party in this Province.

"Thirty Days Hath..."

The campaign for calendar reform goes steadily along. It will be January 1, 1956 before it can be conveniently adopted, but from that date there is an excellent prospect that the muddle produced by Augustus, in order to make his own month as long as that of Julius, will be straightened out.

In addition, the World Calendar Association, Inc., points out that half and quarter years will be uniform, allowing accurate comparisons between periods. Every month will have the same number of weekdays, although the first month in each quarter will have an extra Sunday, the months being 31, 30, 30 days repeated four times.

Perhaps the most striking feature is that any given date will always fall on the same day of the week, so that holidays, for instance, can be established to fall regularly on the same day each year and there need be no labourious search or calculation to determine what day of the week July 1st falls on or what will be the date of the first Monday in September.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Tomorrow—St. Swithin's Day.

Tomorrow—Eight Sunday after Trinity.

Housewives need not worry overmuch about the increase in price of eggs for a paternal government has arranged for importation from Ireland, no fewer than 10,500 cases being now on the way aboard the S. S. Irish Rose from Cork.

The continued decline in butter production is exactly what dairymen had predicted when margarine was permitted to enter the Canadian market. High costs of feed and labour and relatively profitable beef production have merely emphasized the trend.

Nothing succeeds like success and the co-operative movement in the Maritimes, or rather Atlantic Provinces, is making great strides. "Well over the \$1,000,000,000 mark" is big business indeed, although based on the little man.

"A Million Acre Farm, Prince Edward Island" is the title of an illustrated descriptive article in the current issue of the "Canada-West Indies Magazine".

The \$40 per month old age pension for all those of seventy and over is payable in January next, but those not already pensioners must register, and the necessary registration forms may be obtained from post offices on and after the 30th of this month.

The Bastille of Paris was stormed and fell before the fury of the mob this date 1789. Built late in the 14th century as part of the fortifications of Paris, it later was used as a prison and from the time of Richelieu persons obnoxious to those in high place were incarcerated there on "lettre de cachet."

The Parliamentary privilege of franking letters through the mail has come in for criticism, or at least its abuse has done so. A similar privilege was abolished in 1840 so far as the Parliament at Westminster was concerned because limits of 10 outgoing and 15 incoming letters per day were flagrantly disregarded.

The resolution of the Women's Institutes in favour of bringing Latin back to the rural schools was based on the practical consideration that country students are at a disadvantage when required to take up the subject at a later stage of their education.

Mr. Charles Strong, author of dog stories and editor at Standard Publications in New York, is giving a series of talks at the present convention of the Canadian Authors' Association in Banff. Mr. Strong is currently engaged in writing a history of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police for Longmans, Green & Company.

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.

MYSTERY BIRD

Sir—An editor is not expected to be an ornithologist but possibly you know someone who is and who can identify our "Mystery Bird" for us.

It persistently eludes our sight but we hear it every day. Its call is hard to describe—not a song, not a whistle but a muted sound consisting of sometimes three, sometimes four notes on a downward sliding scale. Possibly the difference in the number of notes we hear is due to the distance from which the sounds come.

A week or so ago I heard the same note in Hantsport, N.S., but saw no sign of the bird.

I am, Sir, etc., (MRS.) G. M. MARSTERS Bellevue Farm, Charlottetown, R.R. I.

CAPITALISM & COMMUNISM

Sir—Under the heading "Muddled Thinking" you published in Friday's Guardian an editorial from The Printed Word which accuses Dr. Gordon A. Sisco, Secretary of the General Council of the United Church of Canada, of loose talk when he says "Communism and Capitalism are both defective from a Christian point of view."

Further he accuses Dr. Sisco of being a socialist because he dared to say that "Both Communism and Capitalism are defective from a Christian point of view."

I believe we seriously misrepresent the Christian religion when we try to make it support the status quo. From the Christian point of view no man-made system is perfect, whether it be Capitalism, Communism, Socialism, or what have you.

I am, Sir, etc. HOWARD CHRISTIE Hunter River.

(There is nothing in either Christian Socialism or Capitalism to prevent men from enrolling themselves as citizens in the Kingdom of God, and by example and precept to remedy the conditions which are inimical to Christ's teachings.)

FARMERS' PRICES

Sir—Despite the uproar concerning the price of food, which seems to snaggle all the spotlight these days (and, unfortunately, as my neighbor phrased it, "this publicity treat is always on the farm-er"), I got the proverbial bang out of his forthright item in your Editorial Notes the other day: A warning that it would be "foolish" to cut back farm income through lower farm prices was sounded at the annual meeting of the National Independent Meat Packers Association by Carl H. Wilson.

Washington economic analyst: Farm income is the gear wheel of national income and the gear ratio is seven to one. Mr. Wilson said. For every \$1,000,000 of farm income, the country has consistently had \$7,000,000 of national income for the past 26 years, he claimed. (June 29, Guardian).

I find the above a thought-provoking picture, and while I am too close to the "good earth" and far too busy to study all the implications—or even the soundness—of the above formula, I have no doubt that wise and able men will do so.

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It Depends On How You Look At It



The Poet's Corner

EARLY MOON

The baby moon, a canoe, a silver papoose canoe sails and sails in the Indian west. A ring of silver foxes, a must of silver foxes, sit and sit around the Indian moon.

—Carl Sandburg.

The Age-Old Story

And Ahaziah fell down through a lattice in his upper chamber that was in Samaria, and was sick; and he sent messengers, and said unto them, Go, enquire of Baal-sebub the god of Ekron whether I shall recover of this disease.

Old Charlottetown

(And P. E. I.)

SETTLERS FROM SKYE

From the Colonial Herald, Saturday, Sept. 12, 1840: "The brig Rother, Captain Hall, six weeks from Tobernory, with 229 passengers, all natives of the Isle of Skye, arrived here on Tuesday last.

A week later, Sept. 25, the Herald reported the due arrival of the Nith, Capt. Shaw, with 315 settlers from Skye for this island, after landing upwards of 100 passengers at Cape Breton.

Beds Of Dinosaurs

Citizens of Brooks and Hanna are urging that a national park be established at Steveville, in Southern Alberta, to cover the particular dinosaur beds in the Red Deer River badlands at that point.

That these dinosaur beds are worth putting on display seems definite enough. As "Feid Piper" pointed out in a recent article on this page, they constitute one of three fossil areas in this province which compare with any on the continent and which should be better known to Albertans.

LONDON.—(CP)—Three boys hired a rowboat in London's Barking Park. They broke the rudder, cracked an oar, then lost both oars. Just as they reached the wharf, the boat sank when the bottom fell out.

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Notes By The Way

When exploring the human mind the journey is often brief—London Free Press. "The word 'appreciation' should, if possible, be avoided, since, though largely meaningless in itself, it can be interpreted as excluding any negotiations of any kind, even of a cease-fire."

Here is the great challenge to Americans, today: not to allow the revolutionary urge toward a more abundant life to be captured by those who would cynically exploit it. This challenge cannot be met by ranging America with the forces of the past. Let it be made clear to the whole world that those American soldiers whose graves lie in Asia have fought not to preserve the past but to enlarge the future.

The preposterous argument is made that a motorist, alone in his car, who refuses to pick up hitch-hikers is guilty of selfish and presumably immoral conduct. It does seem that the chap who bought the car, who bought the license plates and the gasoline, who keeps it in repair, is entitled to ride alone in it if he feels that way.

An orange lily in a garden must endure certain restrictions against tendencies to multiply mightily and spread like measles in a central school. But let the lilies get started in a moist place by the side of the road and they have a grand time. Nobody weeds them, cut them back or takes a bunch of them indoors.

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