The Guardian

Covers Prince Edward Island Like the Dew

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Traditional Friendships

Thank goodness not all American officials believe that war between the United States and China over Formosa is possible. Mr. George V. Allen, director of the U.S. Information Agency said recently that "America's history of friendly relations with the Chinese people would be instrumental in settling differences with the Chinese Communist Government".

"It is an historical fact", Mr. Allen added, "that fundamental understanding between the peoples of two countries leads in the long run to understanding between their governments". Mr. Allen mentioned the "open door" policy of the United States in the last century, the establishment of schools and other institutions in China and a wide exchange of students as factors which, he feels, will contribute to American-Chinese understanding.

Perhaps Mr. Allen is right in his optimistic analysis of the situation. It will be a good thing for us all if he is. But somehow, old ties don't seem to have the hold on international relations that they used to have. Indeed, more often than not, Communist Government leaders appear to proceed on the theory that old friendships based on mutual goodwill and respect must be stamped out. Traditionally, the United States and Russia were good friends. In fact, they were two of the very few countries in the world which kept the peace virtually without interruption. And look at them now!

Boating Safety

Because of recent public criticism of Government-approved lifejackets and lifesaving cushions, the Department of Transport has proposed a meeting in Ottawa on October 20 for general discussion of the matter.

The regulations do not specify a design, but rather a list of requirements for, say, kapok-filled lifejackets. The lifejacket is required to have so many ounces of kapok, distributed in a certain manner, to use cloth, tapes, hooks, vinyl, and thread of certain strengths and weights, and so on.

A manufacturer then designs a lifejacket and submits samples to the Department for testing. It is carefully checked against specifications; total buoyancy and buoyancy distribution tested, and finally given a swimming pool test by a child or adult.

If it is approved the manufacturer is given a certificate of approval, together with a stamped approved sample for the guidance of inspectors visiting his premises. This inspection is a spot check at the factory and of retail stores.

Apart from the international standard lifejacket there are the vest-type, donned like a coat, and the overhead type, which consists of a buoyancy pad front and back. There are sizes to fit adults and children.

Buoyancy material may be either kapok or unicellular foam plastic. If kapok is used, it is sealed into vinyl envelopes to protect it from the effects of possible contact with gasoline or oil.

These and lifesaving cushions should provide a considerable degree of safety in case of a pleasure boat accident, but there will be an opportunity for those interested to write or state their views in time for next year's equipment to be modified.

Restrictive Trade Laws

Prime Minister Diefenbaker may be legally correct in rejecting the United States' complaint that the anti-dumping legislation passed at the recent session of Parliament was in violation of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade. Certainly, GATT is so full of loopholes that any signatory nation can do pretty much what it likes in the name of "protection" and still stay within the text of the agreement. It must be said, too, that Americans have little right to criticize the Canadian Government on this one point, since they have anti-dumping laws of their own and very stringent ones. More than once they have used them against imports from this country.

Nevertheless, Canada will be very fortunate if the new legislation does not eventually have an adverse effect on Canadian exports and a particularly disquieting effect on our trade with the United States. The representation made at Ottawa—which, for some reason was not made public until after the legislation had been given royal assent—stipulated that if the anti-dumping laws were imposed against imports from the United States, the American Government would regard it as a "serious" matter. That means, of course, that the United States will retaliate even more drastically than has been the case hitherto. Britain and other countries with which Canada does a big volume of business will probably do the same.

This is the main trouble with restrictive trade laws. They usually do so much harm to the export trade that the little protection they afford domestic industry is insignificant in the long run. Legal considerations aside, it does seem a pity that just at the time trade relations between this country and the United States appeared to be taking a turn for the better—from the Canadian standpoint—the Canadian Government saw fit to enact legislation which cannot do much to stimulate Canadian industry but which almost certainly will aggravate existing irritations.

Undorthodox Politics

We have already referred in these columns to the unusual political qualities of Nelson A. Rockefeller who is running as Republican candidate for Governor of New York in this fall's election. There is still another gracious innovation to be credited to him. Asked the other day what he thought his chances were for unseating the incumbent, Governor Harriman, he replied: "I'm sure I can't say. All I know is that if I don't leave any stones unturned, which I don't plan to do, and if I work as close to 24 hours a day in campaigning as I can, I think I've got a fighting chance."

Mr. Rockefeller is the first candidate for political office we have heard of who did not claim that victory was a foregone conclusion and that the only point at issue was his majority over his rival. His attitude is so different from the bluster that usually marks election campaigns that it deserves some sort of reward. We feel sure that many people who ordinarily wouldn't care a farthing who won the Governorship in New York will in this instance secretly hope that Mr. Rockefeller makes the grade.

EDITORIAL NOTES

British fishermen and Icelandic naval personnel fought a brief battle with potatoes as weapons. Their Irish neighbors, faced with a potato famine, are not going to be amused by such arrant wastefulness.

* * *

A number of island residents have seen a "bright red ball with a long tail" zigzagging across the sky. Well, it's about time that our air space was visited by a flying saucer or its equivalent. For too long have we been discriminated against in this respect.

* * *

75 school children in Edmunston, N.B. have paraded the streets bearing placards proclaiming their wish to "go to school". We can remember the day when youngsters would have rejoiced at a teachers' strike. It must be that this generation is wiser and more thoughtful than its predecessors, despite the widespread criticism of alleged youthful irresponsibility.

* * *

It is hard to see how the United States—China talks in Warsaw can be expected to produce worthwhile results, so long as China is determined to take over Formosa and the other off-shore islands and the United States is determined they shall remain under the control of Chiang Kai-shek. It is possible, of course, that the talks will ease tension and reduce irritation, at least temporarily; and even that would not be without value.

* * *

In his latest letter to President Eisenhower, the Soviet Premier said that "the big powers should be prohibited from rushing fleets and air forces from one end of the world to another for purposes of blackmail and intimidation". The admonition would sound better if Mr. Khrushchev had not sent Russian tanks to mow down Hungarians in the fall of 1956 and if Russian forces in great strength were not standing by in the satellite countries ready to put down the first signs of a desire for independence.

MEET A PENNY-PINCHER

Poker Diplomacy

By Joseph MacSween, Canadian Press

The Formosan crisis has once again spotlighted the peculiar talents of State Secretary John Foster Dulles. At 70 years of age this forceful man tackles each new crisis with an air of indefatigable vigor.

Dulles has added a new dimension to the ancient game of bluff which, it seems clear, is a technique being used on both sides in the verbal war between the United States and Red China over the Quemoy and Matsu islands.

In the hands of Dulles, bluff becomes more than the dictionary definition of "threat designed to operate without action." On Formosa, Dulles first issued a statement on behalf of President Eisenhower giving a stern warning to the Communist Chinese. A "high official" then made the warning considerably stronger.

A CERTAIN MANNER

Dulles subsequently admitted that he was that official, and outlined to reporters what he meant by U.S. support of Chiang Kai-shek. He seemed to be saying that if the Red Chinese acted in a certain, undefined manner, the U.S. would retaliate in a certain, undefined manner.

He also held out an invitation to negotiate which, however limited and vague, must be controversial. Many Canadians, for instance, would consider it merely common sense if the U.S. backed away from war over the Quemoys and Matsus. But in the ears of Chiang the Dulles statement may have sounded like betrayal.

An historic feature of the whole affair is that U.S. policy in the Far East seems to be left entirely to Eisenhower and Dulles with a minimum of criticism and comment at home.

PRIVATE DIPLOMACY

Ordinary Americans — traditionally merciless in criticism of their government in foreign affairs—seem to be almost aloof in this crisis. Congress is in recess and many newspapers have said they lack the full facts on the situation.

On this, Dulles said: "I, of course, recognize that a policy which involves taking grave decisions of this kind should, so far as practical, have the support of the American people. But also, I am aware of the fact that the elements which go into making final decisions are so delicate, oftentimes not subject to public appraisal, that there lies a responsibility upon the president and his principal advisers which cannot be shared with the general public."

On support from allies, Dulles said: "I do not believe that we should seek to require that all of our allies should agree with everything we do in an area of the world where we have the primary responsibility . . . I believe that as they increasingly understand the situation they will do so."

WHERE BLUFF ENDS

It is difficult to conceive of such a statement being made by an American statesman, say, 20 years ago. Dulles' words are the measure of the responsibility placed upon him.

His aims—and where his bluff ends—are indicated in this statement: 'You can not isolate and say that the only problem involved here is Quemoy and Matsu. What is involved, and what is under threat, is the entire position on the U.S. and that of the free-world allies in the Western Pacific."

Fifty Years Of Modern Art

By Fernand Poney, Unesco Features

A feature of the Brussels Universal Exhibition and one which continues to attract crowds of visitors is the display organized at the Internatiional Palace of Fine Arts under the title "Fifty Years of Modern Art." This highly successful display was organized as "an initiation into the art of our time and a balance-sheet of current aesthetic values."

The works of art included in this panorama of half a century will soon be returned to their accustomed places in the museums and private collections of twenty-two countries. Some of these paintings and sculptures are masterpieces: none of them is without importance. But perhaps the exceptional character of the collection lies in its educational value which enhances the aesthetic pleasure it offers.

UNFOLD

Paintings and sculptures by two hundred and fifty artists, from Cezanne to the young exponents of abstract art, from Rodin to Brancusi, illustrate and tell the story of evolution in the plastic arts from the beginning of the century to the present day. In this way it is possible to compare artistic movements which have marked the past fifty years, movements which art critics have designated as fauvism, cubism, futurism, expressionism, constructivism, suprematism, metaphysical art, dada, surrealism, social realism, tachism, abstract art, etc.

On the panels and pedestals of the exhibition, these labels suddenly become alive, and the fascinating adventure of modern art is unfolded before the visitor's eyes.

THE REBELS

The story begins with those rugged non-conformists - Cezanne Seurat, Van Gogh, Gauguin, Munch, Holder, Bonnard, Ensor - who breaking away from impressionism, opened up new and diverse vistas - cerebral, dreamlike, fantastic and even abstract. These rebels are presented at Brussels by paintings of which some, for example those of Cezanne, Van Gogh and Gauguin lent by the Puskin Museum in Moscow are a revelation. Paraphrasing Van Gogh's prophetic words, the future seemed already to exist in this young and beautiful art.

Next follows Matisse resolutely bridging the gap between past and future. In paintings rioting with colour, Matisse and the Fauvists, the French and the Germans, the Anglo-Saxons, Scandinavians and Slavs convey their violent "Joie de vivre."

CORRECT EMOTION

The Fauvists were rapidly overtaken by those who applied themselves to construction rather than to lyricism. "I seek the rule which controls emotion," proclaimed Braque. Then came the cubists, with their search for the conquest of form, their geometric severity.

"Substituting an ideal perspective, a perspective of the mind, for that of the eye," writes Leon Rosemberg, "they give their forms the dimensions of an idea and not those of vision." At first they paid little attention to colour. Then gradually their range of tints expanded and their treatment of subject became free

SHORTLIVED

Parallel with cubism, futurism developed in italy and in other parts of the West. The dynamic theme of this other "systematic" movement was to involve the spectator in the action of the picture. But the greatest adepts of this School soon abandoned its principles, and futurist painting was shortlived.

Expressionism, however, is among the most vital and persistent of modern currents. It first appeared about 1918 in Munich and in Berlin and apparently its discoverers, Beckman, Nolde, Neckel among others - were its most powerful exponents. Normally a movement of this kind splits up very quickly into individual groups because his innermost "self."

In the field of art, however, the expressionists, although they did not necessarily conform to a common set of rules, exerted an immediate influence on each other, with the result that the movement has maintained a unity which can be seen in their use of sombre hues slashed with vivid streaks of colour. Expressionist art gave birth to the tendency towards "committed" art, exemplified by Grosz and his circle, and to magic realism which surrounds objects and incidents of everyday life with an aura of mystery.

PROFUSION

The first quarter of the century produced a profusion of schools and movements. Constructivism, to which Fernand Leger remained faithful all his life, drew inseeking to capture reality in terms of scientific laws, created a world of spheres, cones, cubes and cylinders. The suprematism of Malevitch, deriving in turn from constructivism, sought a more rational and rigorous foundation. Giorgio de Chirico's metaphysical art; on the other hand, recalls the fantistic art of Hieronymous Bosch.

After the anarchist revolt of the Dada group (Marcel Duchamp had already discovered Dadaist forms before 1914), there followed collective action of "permanent revolution" brought about by Surrealism, a movement which has profoundly influenced the second quarter of the century. The works of Max Ernst, Hans Arp, Paul Klee, Joan Miro, Picasso, Magritte and others of this period are among the most disturbing of our times. The surrealists were also responsible for inciting enthusiasm for the works of the half painters among whom some, such as the "Douanier" Rosseau and Seraphine, the charwoman, may be compared with the greatest of the masters.

AND TODAY

Today two movements exist which stem from completely opposite conceptions: social realism and abstract art. The first, which aims at emancipating the masses through culture, is concerned essentially with the contents of the work. The second severs all connection with material reality to devote itself solely to purity of form.

"Why abstract art?" says Hans Arp. "This is on the contrary concrete art since, owing nothing to nature, it is itself a form of nature, a radical creation." Abstract art is, in fact, only the logical outcome of the evolution which inspired cubism. And, gonaturalism of the beginning of the present century may be said to have contained the germ of non-figurative art. It remains to be seen whether abstract art carried within it the possibilities of a new departure in art.

It is obvious that a survey such as this suffers from over-simplification. It becomes a series of chapter headings in the history of art of the present century, a history which has already been written by numerous authors but which may be revised yet again.

MUCH MORE

In any case, it is impossible to confine within the limited definitions of some dozen schools, tendencies or movements the men and women who, during these years, have served art - an Art which, as the exhibition shows, is full of vitality. Many of the artists defy classification, contradict all theories or use several different styles. Nor is it possible to try to divide contemporary art into two large distinct groups, figurative and non-figurative. Two currents - one emotional and the other cerebral - may perhaps be distinguishel, whose sources lie far back in the past. Between the transports of lyricism and the demands of reason, the artist must make his choice or find a means of expression somewhere between the two extremes.

How Doctor Checks The Eye

By Herman N. Bundesen, M.D.

QUITE a while ago I wrote a column explaining why a physician makes the various examinations he does during the course of a physicial checkup. Later I discussed the method of dental examination.

Following these articles, I received a number of requests to explain the reasons for the different examinations made by an optometrist as he checks your vision.

EYE CHECKS

I am no eye specialist but, with the aid of the American Optometric Association, I'll outline the various eye checks and the reasons for them.

First, an optometrist will inspect the exterior of the eyes and lids and he will estimate the presure of the eyeball. Then, if the examination or history of the patient indicates the need, he will check the field of vision.

Next, he will use an instrument to shine a bright light into the interior of your eyes. This is an ophthalmoscope, a device by which he can examine the optic nerve head to determine whether it is normal.

BLOOD VESSELS

He will check to see whether the blood vessels are normal, or whether there have been hemorrhags or any other difficulties. He also will look for any evidence of inflammation of the inner coats of the eyes.

Next, comes the refraction. With compensating lenses the optometrist checks to determine the ones which will focus the light rays to the eyes' best advantage. Different types of lenses are required, of course, for nearsightedness, astigmatism, (no point focus) and various other eye troubles.

OTHER CHECKS MADE

The refraction doesn't conclude the examination. The optometrist also checks coordination of the eyes, depth perception and distance judgment.

He probably will ask you what sort of work you do, so he can make sure your eyes focus well at the required working distance or distances.

He doubt he also will check your peripheral vision — your ability to see to the side when looking straight ahead.

Only after he has made a thorough vision analysis will he write a prescription for your glasses, if you need them. Actually, about one patient out of every eight won't need glasses at all.

QUESTION AND ANSWER

H.M.: My girl, 7, is 10 pounds overweight. Is it advisable to put such a young child on a deit?

Answer: It is not advisable for children to reduce until they have reached their full growth. However, her diet should contain an abundance of fruits, vegetables and milk, with smaller amounts of starches and sugars.

MAXIMS

The world is governed more by appearances than by realities, so that it is fully as necessary to seem to know something as it is to know it.

NOTES BY THE WAY

Let the non-supporter of fishing scoff and call it a lazy sport. Little does he know peregrination of the fisherman's mind, what inventions, great works of art, or even solutions to some of the world's most pressing problems may evolve. The size of the fish caught is incidental. It's what fishing does to the inner man that counts. It is one of the few havens of peace and quiet left to him.—Regina Leader-Post

The government may find itself in a dilemma before long. It is on record as desiring to hold the line on prices and wages in order to curb inflation. But the Conservative Party is also on record as strongly opposed to compulsory arbitration which the St. Laurent government resorted to in 1950 and threatened on a subsequent occasion. Thus, in order to avoid a strike, it might have to allow a further freight rate increase to stand, even with the knowledge that the effects of this would be inflatianary and that the impact would fall unevenly on different parts of the county.—Ottawa Citizen

The Poets Corner

WHOLE POEM OF NIGHT

There were no stars at first
But a whole poem of night,
Early unbloomed, young and nearly dark,
Nuance of cloud and little seeds of stars,
A swimming mist, a fine excitement of waiting.
Out of the darkness came the Milky Way
And Acres of stars, whole fields of daisies.
We waded through, up to our knees in light,
A wisp of fog il our faces as the cloud passed.

— Katherine Saunders.

The Age Old Story

Rejoice in the Lord alway: and again I say, Rejoice.

OUR YESTERDAYS

(From The Guardian Files)

TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO
(Sept. 13, 1933)

To provide for the overflow of students at Prince of Wales College this year, two additional members of the staff were appointed yesterday, namely Mr. William Reddin, B.A., Charlottetown, and Miss Helen Ramsay, Malpeque. The number of students this year totals about 560, representing an increase of more than one hundred over last year. Even with the additional teachers, the members of the staff will have to take between twenty-five and thirty periods each.

A midnight fire alarm summoned the firemen to fight a blaze in the Connolly Estate Building on Queen Street last night. Although there was not a great deal of damage done by fire a great loss was sustained to merchandise stored on ground floor and owned by Mr. P.W. Turner and Mr. H.M. Simpson. The store of Mr. Alex MacPherson, also on the ground floor, was undamaged.

TEN YEARS AGO
(Sept 13, 1948)

Lieutenant Governor J.A. Bernard yesterday officially opened the new combined school and convent at Lennox Island before a large gathering of people from all parts of the province. The Hon. A.E. Arsenault, retired Justice of the Supreme Court of the province, presided at the opening ceremonies.

The question of a floor price for potatoes was discussed at the opening meeting of the Council of the Charlottetown Board of Trade last night in preparation for the annual meeting of the Maritime Board of Trade to be held in Kentville, N.S. Sept. 16 and 17. It is expected a resolution to this effect for submission to Ottawa will be presented at the Kentville meeting.

A Roman coin minted about 450 A.D. was found the other day in a Miami parking meter. The miscreant who put it there should be easy enough to find. All the Miami police have to do is keep their eyes open for a man driving a chariot.—Detroit Free Press

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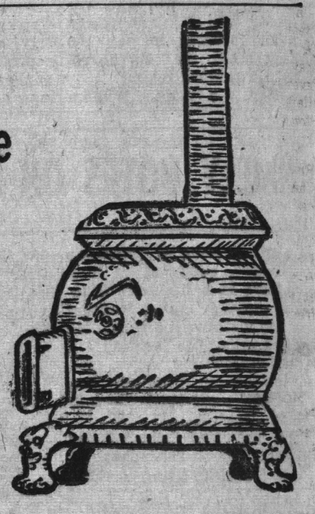
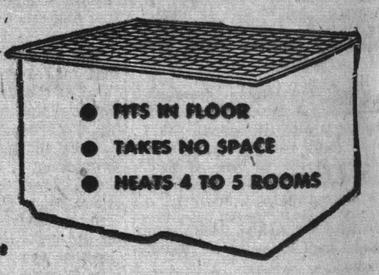


Floor Furnace



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