

THE GUARDIAN

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CIRCULATION "Covers Prince Edward Island like the dew"

"The strongest memory is weaker than the weakest ink"

CHARLOTTETOWN, MONDAY, MARCH 23, 1953

Welfare Council Brief

The way to prevent war is to prepare for war, and in the view of the Canadian Welfare Council the way to prevent unemployment is to prepare for unemployment.

A premise of the brief is that the need for financial assistance is not different in character because of differences in cause. Whether an individual is unemployable or unemployed does not effect the fact that his needs and those of his family must be met.

Constitutional reasons and reader adaptation to local conditions are amongst the arguments advanced for Provincial administration. The Council accepts the disadvantage of separate administration from Unemployment Insurance, and an unavoidable variation in policy between Provinces and even between municipalities.

The well-balanced brief goes into a number of other matters, including the necessity of a rehabilitation programme, and emphasizes that the problem of unemployment in good times and bad must be tackled from a number of aspects. It rules out any simple solution.

Too Many Absentees

The Moncton Transcript notes that when the vote which closed the budget debate in the House of Commons was taken last week, only about 60 per cent of the members of parliament were present.

Voting on the budget traditionally has been one of the more important events in the course of a session of parliament. In the days of Mr. Mackenzie King and Mr. Bennett there was generally a full membership of the House for the final vote.

"It has become common practise, evidently," comments our Moncton contemporary, "for members to observe the Thursday-to-Tuesday week-end without faltering. For those members whose constituencies are in Quebec and Ontario it gives them about as much time at home as they spend in Ottawa.

Education in Russia

Frederick Barghorn of Yale University writing in the New York Times on the necessity for estimating Russian power has this to say of its system of education:

"We may rightly deplore the one-sidedness of Soviet education, but we shall discount it at our peril. I was impressed while in Russia, and more recently while interviewing Soviet refugees in Germany, mostly army officers or minor officials, by the keenness and knowledge of this class of Russians. I am sure the students work harder in Soviet schools than do most American students. They are particularly strong in geography, language, and history."

Dr. Barghorn goes on to comment on

the vigorous pressure exerted by the Kremlin for scientific and technical education. "Stalin," he reminds his readers, "in a speech in 1946, and Malenkov in his recent speech at the party congress called upon Soviet scientists to 'overtake and surpass America.'"

However there is now a comparatively free exchange of data among the western nations on scientific matters. He further suggests, and this strongly, that the time has gone when we could complacently go about in our educational systems putting emphasis upon the mediocre while letting the gifted become bored and discouraged.

Election Promises

Once again, notes the Financial Post, U. S. politicians are discovering that election promises are more easily made than carried out. All through the campaign last year, the Republicans hinted broadly at thumping tax cuts and great slashes in government spending.

The trouble is that new Congress like the old one finds it has realities to face and that trimming where it might be done is often politically painful. Most members seem to have a pet project or two and the only safe place for swinging the axe seems to be foreign aid. In both respects that would seem to bring the new Congress into sharp conflict with the new President.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Nursing is a profession with a proud record of service to humanity. Today the calls upon nursing services are greater than ever before and the trend in public health activity will make even greater demands on it.

James Justinian Morier (Hajji Baba), British traveller and novelist, died this date 1849. He was secretary to the British ambassador to Persia and during his six years of residence in that country he thoroughly acquainted himself with the character of the people.

The sum of \$32,346,000 voted to cover the loss of the agricultural prices support board seems a great deal and no doubt much will be made of the enormous amount of money spent on aiding the farmer.

There are 22,455 occupied dwellings in this Province, according to the 1951 census, 18,305 owner-occupied and 4,150 tenant-occupied. The number of rural homes is 16,880, of which 10,650 are farmsteads.

The disclosure of more of a company's business to its owners, the shareholders, is the theme of a series of recommendations made by the Canadian Institute of Chartered Accountants in its proposals for amendment of the Canadian Companies Act and Provincial Acts.

Even the youths shall faint and be weary, and the young men shall utterly fail; but they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk and not faint.

Looney At The Wheel



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.

EXPLOITATION

Sir.—This word has come to exhalate a bad odour. It smells heavily of Communism, and the Communists claim it smells of capitalism.

In The Guardian of March 14th in His Eminence Cardinal McGuigan's timely article, "Immoral Literature," he uses this word in denouncing unscrupulous men, parasites, they are, who shamelessly exploit human weakness for their own profit.

Desire for drink is another passion that selfish men prey upon for money. Some can drink or leave it alone. Others drink in moderation to enjoy the fillip it gives them, loosening up their tongues and putting them at ease.

The whole liquor traffic is playing this thirst for money profit. They say, "hook or crook, people will get drunk. We can charge them what we like, and they will pay. Prohibition is impossible. This thirst is here and it is going to stay. Our business is permanent."

But this thirst can cease. It is unnatural. We were born to water, but not to alcoholic liquor. And science says the body is better without it. This thirst can cease clean out of a man's life. I have known it to happen. It is happening here now in Canada in thousands of cases.

I am, Sir, etc., W. I. GREEN Stanley Bridge.

Old Charlottetown (And P. E. I.)

ARMY DESERTERS

"The detachment of the 96th Regiment, under the command of Captain Cumberland, left the garrison on Thursday last, in the steamer for Pictou. The night previous, a Sergeant and one man deserted, making in all thirteen deserters. We have since heard that another man deserted after the party reached Pictou. The rascals! One would think the enemy was in front. We long to hear how many of this 'escadron volant' their gallant leader will carry with him to Halifax."

Royal Gazette, July 16, 1833.

The Age-Old Story

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Notes From Another Island

By "Anson"

LONDON, England.—

Most of the bigger trade groups have their own annual exhibitions, but the trouble with some of them, so far as the great British public is concerned, is that they are what they are—trade shows. Hence, frequently, anyone and everyone with an interest in the trade or the industry involved—not forgetting the overseas buyer, on whom we always have a hopeful eye—is welcomed; gentlemen of the Press are given every facility; but members of the public at large are tolerated and no more.

Indeed, sometimes they are not even tolerated. On certain days of the brilliantly spectacular air display sponsored by the Society of British Aircraft Constructors, for instance, entry is only for the relative few, who qualify by close connection with the industry, the Press or, somewhat oddly, any foreign power (friendly or otherwise). Even the South Bank site at the Festival of Britain in 1951—goodness, is it two years already since the Festival?—fell partly under the same spell of exclusiveness; on Tuesday each week the price of admission was raised, in order to dissuade large numbers of the merely curious from attending, and so leave more room for tycoons whose time was too valuable to be wasted through crowd delays.

But at least, once a year, there is an exhibition in London which is for all of us, irrespective of our trade or calling. It has a theme, one that owes nothing to any particular industry but touches on most in one way or another. It is the Ideal Home Exhibition, sponsored by one of our national newspapers, and its name makes its purpose evident.

The home, surely, is something that most interest all of us who have roots. The annual Motor Show has little attraction, for anyone who has neither hope nor ambition to own a car; the Business Efficiency Exhibition may help an office manager to save his firm a fortune, but it doesn't mean a thing to the miner, the electrician, the airline pilot and millions more of us. Yet the motorist and the pedestrian, the miner, the electrician and the pilot all have a home, be it ever so humble, and we all like our home to be as near ideal as we can make it.

The Ideal Home Exhibition is designed to show us how to do it. Or at least, how it should be done, given certain ideal circumstances—not least of which would be a good deal more cash than is to be found in most people's wage packets. However, since most of us are conditioned to set our sights somewhat lower than the ideal in all things, this is a matter which does not distress us unduly. It is nice indeed to see what could be done if we had the wherewithal. There is plenty of scope. A visit to the Exhibition is an astonishing educational course in the number of goods and services that go to make up a home, ideal or not.

Furniture and food, lighting, heating and cooling, cleaning, decorations interior and exterior, gadgets for this and fittings for that. So many things which so many manufacturers say are quite indispensable one wonders how one managed without them for so long. The truth is probably what we "made do", improvised and settled for what we could achieve rather than sigh for the unattainable. The Ideal Home Exhibition helps in that respect—it displays ideas as well as goods. Not with intent, it is true, but it would be impossible to calculate how many homes have been reorganized with the minimum of expense as a result of the mental notes taken by astute householders during a visit to the great show.

Of course, it all sounds very fine, this Exhibition, and so it is; it is a triumph of organized showmanship, and it is of absorbing interest to men and women of every class and calling. But alas—and this is no fault of the organizers—it has a hollow ring to countless thousands more who are still victims of that scourge of the post-war years, the housing shortage. Some can make a joke of their troubles, like the person who advertized in the London newspaper not so long ago: "Dog and master

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The Poet's Corner

THOUGHTS ON FREEDOM

It is not to be thought of that the Flood Of British freedom, which, to the Of the world's praise, from dark antiquity Hath flowed, "with pomp of waters, unwittingly," Roused though it be full often to a mood. Which spurns the check of salutary bands, That this most famous stream in 'bogs and sands Should perish; and to evil and to good Be lost for ever. In our halls is hung Armory of the invincible Knights of old; We must be free or die, who speak the tongue That Shakespeare spake; the faith and morals hold—In everything we are sprung Of Earth's first blood, have titles manifold.

—William Wordsworth.

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Notes By The Way

The extended thumb is a notable feature of the Quebec roadside, both in and around the city. For some reason, there seems to be more people seeking lifts around Quebec than in other parts of the province. —Quebec Chronicle-Telegraph.

A North Bay man has an offer of a million dollars for mineral rights on an island in Lake Nipissing. Better take it. There are old prospectors going around with toes out of their shoes because they wanted just a little more for their find. —Port Arthur News-Chronicle.

The growth of population by natural increase and immigration, progressively higher levels of education, as well as measures like family allowances which promote school attendance, are all factors adding to municipal problems in Quebec. The increasing spread of education among Canadians is a happy phenomenon. It will, however, require a large-scale effort to face up to it. —Le Soleil, Quebec.

The infinite variety of Western Ontario is constantly providing new surprises. From the Hanover Post we learn that Bentinck Township is planning to erect a bridge over the river Stix. From our scanty knowledge of classical mythology we had the impression that the Greeks were the first to separate the world of the living from the Underworld. But apparently Bruce County has that too. We can only wonder if there is a Charon up there whose ferry will be made obsolete. —London Free Press.

Comparisons are odious. And it is hazardous to place Quebec's last budget alongside that which the Hon. Leslie Frost has just put before the Legislature in Toronto. Conditions vary a great deal from province to province. At first glance and proportions accounted for, Ontario's financial position does not seem to be as good as Quebec's. Yet Mr. Frost does not hesitate to increase the provincial grants to Ontario universities. He has raised to \$6,955,000, an increase of \$463,000, the current grants to the universities and has added special grants amounting to \$1,900,000. —L'Action Catholique, Quebec.

In Western Ontario, on a dual highway, two young men aged 20 and 23 returning from a dance at one in the morning were instantly killed when their automobile left the pavement and struck a tree. The police estimated the speed at the moment of the crash as 80 miles per hour, and the car was cut in two, pieces being found 200 feet away. Here was a highway of advanced design, a smooth and well-kept piece of road, but human folly was not to be discouraged. A lunatic at the wheel can defeat the most elaborate safety pre-need home. Box ---; others find no humour at all in the situation and may well remark that to them, any home would be ideal.

Here on the bald-headed Prairies trees go along with pleasant living to a greater degree than anywhere else in Canada. Tree planting is nothing new on the Prairies. Since 1901 more than 350,000,000 trees have been planted on Prairie farms, to say nothing of the thousands upon thousands planted in towns and cities. Today more than ever there is need for trees on farms. Fortunately more farmers have been able to build new homes or modernize their old ones during the past few years than ever before, and modern homes in the rural areas demand trees to give them a setting. Trees and modern homes will help to hold farm families on the land.

cautions the human mind can devise.—Ottawa Journal.

For a long time children have been delighted with toy guns. Today these toys enjoy an extraordinary popularity. Counters are loaded with them, replete with fascinating choices. It is an odd day when you do not meet three or four little fellows playing at bandits. Up to a point this is all innocent and child-like. But is it always necessary, and is it wise, to let the youngsters learn the art of assassinating one another, of imitating a calling which is certainly not among the most noble? To the young, said an ancient, we should give nothing that is not excellent.—Le Droit, Ottawa.

In days gone by when children misbehaved in the classroom they expected to be punished for it. They had no grudge against the teacher and they did not carry any tales home. Girls might be verbally corrected or given a few light boys held out the hands manfully and never moved them until the allotment of slaps was over. Their hands might be tingling with pain, but they returned to their seats with a grin on their faces and a "Naw, it didn't hurt" attitude of bravado. Parents are sometimes unaware that daring children at school may be insolent brats at home. If a teacher thinks the punishment is required to establish discipline, it is no doubt deserved. —St. Thomas Times-Journal.

Coffee came to the cup of man through the capers of a goat. That, at least, is the story handed down through ten centuries from the land of the ancient Arabians. More than a thousand years ago, the story goes, an Arab goatherd noticed that his charges became uncommonly frisky whenever they munched the berries from the coffee tree. The goatherd tried them himself and found them good—starting coffee on the road to your breakfast table. Today the world consumes about 200 billion cups of coffee each year. More than half of that cascades down the throats of Americans. The U. S. consumption is equal to nearly two cups a day for every man, woman and child in the land. —Wall Street Journal.

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