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"The strongest memory is weaker than the weakest ink."  
 TUESDAY, SEPT. 21, 1954

**For A United Canada**

Prime Minister St. Laurent has made it clear that he proposes to continue to hold office in a federation of ten Provinces and not merely of the nine other than Quebec. His speech Saturday night to Liberal workers in Quebec was in effect an appeal to the people of Quebec as Canadians in contrast to their role as natives of a particular Province.

In a manner most unlike that of politicians, except perhaps in Prince Edward Island, he bearded the lion of French nationalism in its den. He made it clear that he regards the Union National Government as retarding the progress of Quebec as a Province of Canada, whatever it may be achieving in the direction of creating a sovereign state.

Quebec is not alone, of course, in having reservations about the desirability of increasing Federal powers, but all the other Provinces, having weighed the advantages and disadvantages, have concurred in the various measures adopted to date. They have accepted certain limitations of Provincial activity in order to make possible measures which can only succeed on a national scale. Quebec alone has refused to surrender one jot or tittle of Provincial rights.

It is not against this, however, that the Prime Minister has protested, but against the movement to further sever the Canadians of Quebec from Canadians in the other Provinces. He wants Canadians of any part of the country to continue to be Canadian, and so say all of us.

**Welcome Tariff Decision**

The U. S. tariff commission has rejected an application for higher tariffs on chicory entering the United States. This, comments the Winnipeg Free Press, is a minor but none the less welcome decision. It is welcome because it is the first time since Republican appointments were made to the commission that this body has turned down a request for tariff increases based on the "escape clause" in the tariff law.

This legislation allows an industry, which feels it is being harmed by increased imports resulting from lower tariffs under the reciprocal trade program, to ask for a restoration of the tariff to its former level. If the commission makes such a recommendation, it then goes to the President for his approval or veto.

Of the 50 or so "escape clause" cases which have come before the commission since 1948, only five have actually resulted in higher tariffs; nevertheless, the recent increase in both the number of applications received and the number of recommendations for higher tariffs given by the commission is worrying. The situation is particularly unsettling to those foreign businesses in which exports to the United States play an important part — as was painfully emphasized by the Swiss reaction to tariff increases on imported watches.

The need for stable U. S. tariffs will doubtless be discussed at the forthcoming meeting in Washington of the Boards of Governors of the International Monetary Fund and the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development. There it will be argued that the economic influence of the United States is such that no international trade system can function really effectively if the U. S. continues to follow a policy which provides for the drastic reduction of imports when those imports show signs of hurting domestic concerns.

**Aiding Modern Bible Study**

Language detectives, deciphering clay tablets written in man's oldest known alphabet, are tracing stories found in the Bible back to an ancient city called Ugarit. Possibly, that Mediterranean seaport kingdom, now a buried mound known as Ras Shamra on the Syrian coast, was both wellspring and link between the earliest Hebrew literature and Greek mythology. Scholars of Semitic languages for several years have been finding strong clues.

Older than Phoenicia, Ugarit was only rediscovered 25 years ago. For 3,000 years before that it had been a lost city. In 1928 a Syrian farmer working his land on the Mediterranean shore hit a stone obstruction. Lifting away the slab, he found a stairway leading to an underground passage and a vaulted tomb that contained ornaments of gold. The following year the French archaeologist C.F.A. Schaeffer began excavating at the spot and at a sun-baked mound near by. He unearthed not only evidences of a city dating back to 5,000 B.C., but a written cuneiform language of the same era as Egyptian hieroglyphics and Babylonian ideographs.

This script, however, used only 30 signs—a true alphabet centuries older than any previously known.

As more and more Ugarit tablets were dug from ruined palaces and libraries, archeologists acclaimed the importance of the discovery. Ras Shamra is the first spot in the eastern Mediterranean to yield a written literature of the earliest Canaanites. Old Testament scribes undoubtedly were familiar with the Ugarit culture.

Ugarit stood as a rich and powerful trading center between the empires of Mesopotamia to the east and of the Mediterranean at its doorstep. Inscriptions on ivory and gold statues and thrones as well as written treaties reveal that Ugarit received gifts and dealt with both the Egyptian pharaohs and Hittite kings. Finally falling before Hittite invasions that broke ancient Egypt's power in the Near East, the city was sacked repeatedly. It had ceased to exist by the 12th century B.C.

From its alphabet language, scientists now are translating a rich body of legend, poetry, and religious belief. They find poetic resemblances between the literature of Ugarit—its stories told on the tablets—and stories written long after in the older books of the Bible.

Recently, notes the Canadian Geographic Society, ties have also been found to Greek mythology, the early Homeric literature. Today the tables of Ugarit are aiding studies of the Bible and throwing new light on the earliest sources of Western culture and civilization.

**Mr. Stevenson's Warning**

It has been said before, but the warning this time comes from Mr. Adlai Stevenson and is of timely concern to all democracies. "I am most deeply concerned," Mr. Stevenson said in an interview with the Associated Press, "over a trend toward 'conformity'—a growth of anti-intellectualism which manifests itself in a sneering attitude toward education, science and the arts. The tendency is to stifle mental freedom, which is the very basis of a democracy's life and growth. . . . We cannot afford to forget that freedom of thought, freedom to explore old and new ideas, to disagree, that these are bulwarks of a free people because without them there can be no real freedom."

"There is a great hunger among the people for moral leadership that remains unsatisfied. We have placed too much emphasis on materialism. Most political appeals have been an appeal to the belly rather than to the spiritual, the intellectual, the moral and educational."

"Perhaps the New Deal contributed a little too much to the idea of 'rights' without selling the people on their responsibilities. Certainly the emphasis on rights has grown without an educational process giving equal emphasis to responsibilities."

**EDITORIAL NOTES**

St. Matthew. . . .

Today the 9th General Assembly of the United Nations opens in New York.

A world Scout jamboree will be held in England in 1957 to commemorate the centenary of the birth of Lord Robert Baden-Powell, founder of the Scout movement. The announcement was made by Lord Rowallan, Chief Scout for Britain.

Schools can look forward to a need for continued expansion at the present birth rate. Registrations increased eight per cent in August over the same month last year. The cumulative total for the year is 6.9 per cent larger than the Canadian figures for last year.

A Norwegian physician has startled the medical and public health world by suggesting that soaps and tooth pastes which produce a heavy lather may increase human susceptibility to polio. It is emphasized, however, that his studies are definitely in the preliminary stage and that all medical experience is to the contrary.

The Panama Canal will soon have competition, according to a statement of policy issued by the President of the republic of Columbia. It is proposed to complete a second north and south waterway from Atlantic to Pacific by linking the Atrato and San Juan rivers. They are now separated by a distance of 25 miles and the whole waterway would extend more than 400 miles.

Sir Walter Scott, Scottish novelist and historian, died this date 1832. Before his time Scottish history was virtually an unworked mine but among the results of his enormously popular Waverley novels was the founding of numerous learned societies whose members made it their business to exhume and publish documents illustrating Scotland's past. Scott's example was largely responsible for the Romantic movement in France and elsewhere.



In The Interests Of Harmony

**PUBLIC FORUM**

This column is open to the discussion by correspondents of questions of interest to the Guardian. We do not necessarily endorse the opinion of correspondents.

**"A WORD TO THE WISE"**

Sir—I read with some amusing interest in the Public Forum of today's Guardian a short letter carrying the following heading "The Potato Board", but to my way of thinking, with my little mind, it should have borne the above salutation.

Now the part that bothers me more than anything else "of course you're not going to lose any sleep over it," is just what category to place the writer in. When he advises the "wise" to keep out of the squabble, and he himself into it. There are but two classes. The wise and the unwise, you are either in or you are out. So I would say it does not look so good for the advice set forth.

Why shouldn't the Government take any part in this affair, "the Government made the Act and they certainly should be interested in it, to see that it is implemented to the better advantage of the greater majority of the people of this Province, not just a few grandiose cossacks that draw hasty conclusions."

The above title was taken from the last chapter, second last verse, of "The Potato Board," Monday's Guardian.

AN AMUSED READER  
 Emerald, P. E. I.

**THE LIQUOR CHALLENGE**

Sir—The brewers, anticipating no serious opposition from the churches are laying bold plans for the future. They plan to make strong drink easily available to all our people. A move is on foot now to have liquor sold more widely across Canada. I have seen a mother leave a store with an arm-load of groceries and on top a black bottle of rum. This is the aim of the liquor interests, the professed lovers of our country.

We have here in this Province what is called the P. E. Island Temperance Federation, but the temperance forces here are not really federated. A small room can hold the meetings. There is greatly needed a real federation. If we look about us and see what damage liquor is doing to Christian character and to homes, to health and happiness. Surely ministers whose business it is to preach the Gospel of mercy and love should federate themselves with this organization and if all the believers in sobriety, elders and other church members were federated in this worthy cause for the good of our boys and girls, it would require a very large building to accommodate the meetings.

What can a big temperance federation do? It can, at least, with a well-prepared program, meeting every three months, stir up new enthusiasm among its own members. Then we would hear from our pulpits, at least once a year, warm sermons along this line. It is not fair that liquor firms should get all the publicity. No wonder the drinking habit is spreading fast. The popular brands are vocal compared with which church people are a pack of dummies and we can do more than entuse each other. As soon as the Government sees we are in earnest they will sit up and take notice. I am not hinting we go into politics, but there are ways of drawing attention of the Government to one of the greatest evils that afflicts our country. A big, living temperance federation can do that, and no doubt of it. The fast spreading of this evil business challenges all Christian people.

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

**The Age Old Story**

My son, despite not the chastening of the Lord; neither the weary of his correction; for there the Lord loveth he correcteth; even as a father the son in whom he delighteth.

**NOTES BY THE WAY**

You probably grumble if you have to walk a block to get a pair of honey and yet a bee has to travel 43,776 miles to gather a pound. —Stratford Beacon - Hearald.

It's a terrible thought! Here freshmen entering university this fall are the class of 1958, a year most of us had been associating with trips to the moon and such. —Hamilton Spectator.

For most youngsters the "educational films" are those animal pictures having to do with the exploits of Donald Duck and Mickey Mouse. —The Chatham Daily News.

The really daring part of that colonel's order to American army wives in Frankfurt was his insistence that blue jeans must not be worn by "mature women". What armed guard under pressure or what firing squad is to decide which are the "mature" women? And who will notify his next of kin? —Boston Post.

Winston Churchill was rebuked by the Cats' Protection League, an organization of English cat lovers, for fondling a cat during the Atlantic Charter meeting with President Roosevelt. The league charged that Churchill, by picking up the cat before it showed any interest in him, had failed to conform to cat etiquette. —Reader's Digest.

Don't laugh at the fellow who is an eccentric or screwball, because it's this type of person who's apt to come up with an idea that might change the world. A right of democracy is the right to be different, so when you see somebody doing something in an odd or starting manner, don't laugh at him, watch him. —Sackville Tribune-Post.

We can do almost anything if this modern world of ours—except learn to live happily and peacefully. Many of the problems which beset us could be solved—or never allowed to occur—if cool, detached thought were given to them. Perhaps we would do much better, if men of thought replaced the men of action in command of so many realms of life. —Windsor Daily Star.

The prime cause of most accidents is bad manners. Speed, drinking and lack of skill play their part, but in the majority of cases it is because some driver refused to recognize other people's rights. He must get there first even if he has to take chances. As long as people drive on the principle of pushing other people around and regardless of their rights, we shall continue to have traffic accidents. —London Free Press.

"Loaded men with loaded rifles makes a bad combination in the bush. They are just as deadly and just as unpredictable as the motorist who mixes alcohol with gas. Gun licenses are now being issued for another hunting season. Let us have no people killed this year by the gun that no one knew was loaded. "Traffic safety experts tell us—if you drink, don't drive; if you drive don't drink. Hunting safety experts tell us—if you hunt, don't drink. —Sudbury Star.

The exploit of Marilyn Bell, that young girl of 16 who was the first person to swim like Ontario and who remained 21 hours in the cold water should make an impression on those who pass their time criticizing our youth. It is more free and easy than yesterday's, but has none the less initiative and endurance. She will make her way like them before her and perhaps better in all the spheres of human activity. —Le Droit, Ottawa.

Tips are the bane of many people's lives and the staff of life to others. The word is supposed to have come from the old English coffee houses of the eighteenth century. Customers who expected service were encouraged to drop a coin in a box in the sight of a waiter. The legend on the box was "To Insure Promptness" and the first letters of each word spelling "Tip". Now, like everything else, the modest tip has grown up until it is a title of the substantial bill you still have to pay. —Kitchener - Waterloo Record.

Better understanding among the nations of the world is no doubt a noble goal, but somehow life was much more peaceful in the old days when there were whole continents we hardly knew existed. —Edmonton Journal.

Some discoveries of petty thievery in a plant are made in the oddest ways. An executive at E. I. DuPont's Belle Works near Charleston, West Virginia, tells how a young lad unwittingly put the finger on his old man. A geography teacher in the school across the river from the chemical plant asked her class what is produced there. The boy stuck up his hand and innocently declared "antifreeze, pencils, light bulbs and toilet paper." Teacher's jaw fell and she asked where he obtained this information. The reply: "That's what my daddy brings home in his lunch pail every night." —From Wall Street Journal.

**The Poet's Corner**

WITNESS  
 Once quiet meant discord and pain;  
 My frantic mind willed hurricane  
 To blow away its disbelief,  
 But violence brought it no relief.  
 How does it happen that a bough  
 In winter stillness calms me now?  
 The spirit sees what it has known;  
 It prints its trials on leaf and stone.  
 So leaf and stone record for me  
 The ways I went unwittingly.  
 What did I find? What do I know  
 That makes the silence beckon so?  
 —Cecil Hemley.

**Old Charlottetown and P. E. I. SETTLERS FROM SKYE**

"The brig Rother, Captain Hall, six weeks from Tobermory, with 229 passengers, all natives of the Isle of Skye, arrived here on Tuesday last. One child died and another was born on the passage, so that the number landed corresponded with that taken on board. They seemed all in robust health and we have no doubt will prove themselves to be a hardy and industrious class of settlers. "The ship Nith, Captain Shaw, having on board 315 passengers, arrived here yesterday from the Isle of Skye, all in good health. We understand the chief part of them have some property and are likely to become good settlers. The ship also landed a number of passengers at Cape Breton." —Royal Gazette, Sept. 15, 1840.

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**The Passing Scene**

By Observer

**POPULATION AND FOOD**

Canadians are so accustomed to food abundance and wheat surpluses that very few among us give more than fragmentary attention to the world food situation which has never been very good and, in the opinion of some experts, promises to get worse instead of better as time goes on.

As one drives along our island roads these days it is difficult to believe that of the 2 1/2 billions of human beings on the earth, more than two-thirds of them, or approximately 1,700,000,000, are either starving or suffering from extreme malnutrition from scarcity of food.

Yet, that is the situation as disclosed at the recent meeting in Rome of the International Union for the Scientific Study of Population, held under the auspices of various United Nations agencies. A report of the conference gives the interesting information that, whereas in previous meetings (there have been five in all) the emphasis was on falling birth rates in Western countries, at this meeting it was on rising birth rates in Asiatic countries.

This is of special significance. It means that the standard of living in traditionally backward areas is being improved. No one would find any fault with that; but it makes the future, so far as the general world food situation is concerned, more uncertain than ever. Obviously, the better the standard of living, the higher the birth rate and, especially, the rate of infant survival.

The experts are asking one another: If there is not enough food now for 2 1/2 billion people, what will the situation be like, say, in 1980, when, according to present trends, the population will have increased to more than 4 billion?

As was to be expected in a meeting called to discuss population trends and food supplies, the economic beliefs of Thomas Robert Malthus came up for review. It will be recalled that that 18th century English economist was the first notable expert in his field to chart scientifically the course of population with respect to available food supplies. He came to the conclusion that population increases geometrically as 3, 9, 27, 81, 243, while the means of support increases arithmetically as 3, 6, 9, 12, 15. If that were true—and no one has ever bothered to disprove it—no one would need any training in higher mathematics to realize that, eventually, everybody on the earth would starve to death. That, substantially, is what Malthus believed. For a while the so-called "Malthusian idea" flourished; then it declined; now it is being re-examined with renewed respect. A British economist is quoted as saying recently that "world population trends constitute the most important problem in the world at this time; and Dag Hammarskjöld, Secretary-General of the United Nations said the other day: "The world is skating on very, very thin ice."

Since Malthus' time scientific developments have had far-reaching effects on agricultural methods with a consequent increase in food supplies; on the other hand, the same developments have helped to increase the world's population at an even greater rate. This means that the over-all picture with respect to Malthus' 1 times versus 3 plus 3 is about the same now as it was then. It is therefore clear that two alternative solutions to the problem or series of problems—present themselves, viz: (1) leave the hundreds of millions of half-starved Asiatics alone, and (2) increase the food supply so that everybody will have enough. For various reasons, political and humanitarian, the first solution can be ruled out, which leaves an increase, a very considerable increase, of food as the only thing left to do.

How to bring this about in time to do any good is now occupying the attention of various United Nations organizations. There are, of course, the conventional things, such as better and more extensive use of land; further exploitation of marine resources which, the experts say, has been practised only scantily compared with the possibilities; better distribution of surpluses (wheat, for instance) and so on. But even when all these things have been done, there will still not be enough food to provide for the expansion of population. (Incidentally, at this meeting in Rome a very interesting point was brought out about surpluses in wheat which occur from time to time in the Americas. For Western peoples what is a basic food but in Asia, where the shortage of food is always acute, the masses of the people don't care for it; what is more, they don't thrive on it very well. Rice is what they want and need. A way has now been found to convert wheat into rice or, at any rate, into a substance which will have the appearance and most of the qualities of rice. One expert at the meeting in Rome, Dr. Brown of the California Institute of Technology, seems to believe that food habits are largely to blame for so much semi-starvation in the world. "If the people of the world were content to derive their main nourishment from the products of algae (seaweed) and yeast factories," said Dr. Brown, "a world population of 50 billion persons could eventually be supported comfortably." Dr. Brown may be right; nevertheless it is safe to say that it will take more than expert opinion to turn Western people from roast beef and pork to kelp and yeast capsules.

The consensus of opinion at the Rome meeting was that nuclear power—provided the threat of war does not last forever—gives the best hope for keeping food supplies in step with population increase. One man went so far as to predict the day when power will produce all the food necessary without any aid from agriculture. Presumably, that will mean one capsule in the morning, two at noon, and three in the evening, with perhaps half a capsule for a late snack.

From the viewpoint of those who are used to solid food and plenty of it, that is a bleak prospect; but at least it would keep the spirit of Malthus from being able to say: "I told you so!"

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