

THE GUARDIAN

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Our Sudden Bereavement

The announcement yesterday of the death of our beloved King came as a shock. It is true he had been in ill-health for some considerable time, but was supposed to be on the way to recovery. It was in that belief that he himself sanctioned the departure of Princess Elizabeth and Prince Philip on a tour of East Africa, South Africa, Australia and New Zealand. Reports recently indicated His Majesty was making progress towards restoration of health, and it was all the greater shock to learn he had passed away during Tuesday night without a farewell word to anybody. It is evident the long siege of ill-health and lung operations had affected the normal working of his heart, with the result it unexpectedly ceased to beat. God rest his soul.

Our loss is all the greater at this particular time when the union of the Crown means so much to the Commonwealth in general and the British nation in particular. His late Majesty's occupancy of the throne has not been a bed of roses, but he not only never complained, but gave of his utmost to make it appear he enjoyed the experience. A great deal has been said about the why and whereof of his ascent to the throne. Suffice it to say he not only did not envy the position, but at the outset refused to accept it. There was great love between the two brothers, Eddie, the light-some, gay-hearted elder, and George, the bashful, retiring, stuttering junior who was more studious and domestically than socially inclined. It was only because the powers-that-be, including Prime Minister Baldwin and His Grace Rev. Dr. Lang, Archbishop of Canterbury, proved to him that his acceptance meant not only the saving of his abdicating brother, but the saving of the monarchy as well, that he allowed his beloved wife to persuade him to accept. And that he made no mistake history amply testifies. Not only did he succeed in restoring the throne and the reputation of its occupant to the high degree of honour and integrity bestowed upon them by Queen Victoria, but by his example, his counsel in public addresses, inspired anew the devotion of his subjects to the recognized head of a Christian monarchy. He served well and leaves a heritage of which we ought to feel proud.

God Save The Queen!

There is no pause in the succession of the British Sovereigns, and with the passing of His Majesty King George VI, the Empire hails a new ruler in the person of Her Gracious Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. The drastic change has plunged the Commonwealth temporarily into mourning, but life and state affairs must go on, and it is cause for profound satisfaction and gratitude that our new ruler has already shown such aptitude to the ideals of sovereignty and of British democracy.

The recent visit of Princess Elizabeth and her Royal consort, Prince Philip, to Canada, take on new meaning and significance today as we think of the tremendous responsibilities which now devolve upon her. Millions of her loyal subjects throughout the world will mourn with her, with the Queen Mother and with the rest of the Royal Family in the tragic loss they have sustained—all the greater by reason of its unexpectedness, and of Her Majesty's absence on Empire duties from her home and loved ones.

The heartfelt wish of all her subjects is best expressed at this time in the familiar words of the National Anthem:

"Thy choicest gifts in store On her be pleased to pour, Long may she reign!"

Defender Of The Faith

Nothing in our late lamented King's biography is so striking as the frequent references to his strong religious faith, and to his practice of meeting every crisis in his life with prayer. When he ascended the Throne in 1936, he pledged himself, "with God's help," to uphold the honour of the realm and promote the happiness of his people. When Britain declared war on Germany on Sept. 3, 1939, he broadcast an appeal to his people around the world to "stand fast and have faith... We can only do the right as we see the right, and rev-

erently commit our cause to God... May He bless and keep us all." The broadcast over, he and the Queen attended a prayer service at Buckingham Palace; and throughout the war he frequently set aside a "day of national prayer."

As the Empire's fortunes improved, his late Majesty urged continued prayer and dedication. When the Allies invaded France on June 6, 1944, he called for "earnest and continuous and widespread prayer throughout the present crisis of the liberation of Europe." Prayer, he said, would fortify "the determination of our sailors, soldiers and airmen who go forth to set captives free." He added in a broadcast: "We are not unmindful of our shortcomings of the past and present. We shall not ask that God may do our will, but that we may be enabled to do the will of God; and we dare to believe that God has used our nation and the Empire as an instrument for fulfilling His high purpose."

Again, when victory shone on the horizon, he made an address from the royal fireside in which he expressed his longing "for a new birth of freedom and order among all nations so that happiness and concord may prevail and the scourge of war may be banished from our midst." And again at the time of Germany's surrender, in his V-E address: "Today we give thanks to Almighty God for a great deliverance."

Truly these were the utterances of a noble and devout mind, unaffected by the trappings of Royalty but deeply imbued with the overwhelming personal responsibility which Kingship entailed. He was not ashamed to walk humbly before his God, to profess his constant need for Divine aid and comfort. It has been said that more, perhaps, than any British sovereign before him, he was the common man's king; and the core of this truth is undoubtedly to be found in his deep religious convictions.

EDITORIAL NOTES

The electors of Parkdale know what they want, but evidently do not know how they can get the city to give it to them.

The agricultural scientists now in session here are the aristocrats of farm organizations.

P. E. I. cheese now obtains a new lease of popularity in being dressed attractively in convenient sized packages for export.

The well over two million dollar estate of "Dorothy Dix" represents the financial return from a courageous woman's coping with misfortune by helping others with their problems.

Montreal made two steps forward Tuesday in its legal history. It restored the right of the citizens to continue the investigation into the moral condition of the city; and took action to put a stop to the international traffic in the sale of babies for export.

As between the Canadian Army's division of personnel into Officers and Men, compared with the former, Officers and Other Ranks, there is much to be said for the change. It would be better, however, to retain a further sub-division to avoid a wide cleavage and make a point of specifying Warrant Officers and Non-Commissioned Officers.

Not many active journalists can surpass the record of the Editor of this newspaper who has professionally been in contact with no fewer than five reigning sovereigns, namely Queen Victoria the Good, King Edward VII the Peacemaker, King George V the Sailor, King Edward VIII, the Abdicator, King George VI, the Constitutional; and now Queen Elizabeth, recently a royal visitor here.

Communists and their friends have employed so many stratagems to take money from citizens of other countries that it seems almost just that they should be subjects of a capitalistic racket. Resourceful free enterprisers are buying up Marxist relics. They may then be bartered with satellite countries for more generally valued antiques in the certain knowledge that they will hardly be refused.

Charles John Huffam Dickens, English novelist, was born this date 1812. "David Copperfield" is probably a picture of much of his own boyhood and "Micawber" may well be a likeness of his own father, who actually went to a debtor's prison. The Pickwick Papers, written in installments were a success from the first appearance of Sam Weller and were followed by a succession of novels notable for success in sustaining atmosphere and nearly all autobiographical. "The Mystery of Edwin Drood" remained unfinished.

The Commonwealth Mourns



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.

SERIOUS BUTTER SITUATION

Sir,—That was an excellent cartoon (1000 words, and more) showing Miss Margarine paying her glad-eye sympathy call at the hospital bed of Miss No. 1 Creamery Butter. While there was real warmth and meaning in the former's salutation "Hello, Dearie!" it was more than matched by the affectionate and tender reaction of the patient.

As I see this butter vs. margarine problem, it seems that two basic facts come into the present picture, plus prospects for tomorrow: (1)—that milk production has declined by 1 1/4 billion pounds since the close of the war (May 8, 1945); and (2)—that, according to J. S. Turnbull (Ontario president of the National Dairy Council of Canada) "Canada will need an increase of 1 1/2 billion pounds of milk by 1955, or 300,000 more cows."

It will be observed that, even if this latter improvement materializes, it will only about put the nation's milk-stream back at the 1945 level; whereas, it seems to this reader, fairly reasonable to assume that by 1955 Canada's population should be more than 15,500,000, as against 12,150,000 ten years earlier?

In the circumstances, it is difficult for me to see anything but a continuing headache stemming from our carefree and somewhat reckless dive into the production of margarine. Now we cannot have our cake and eat it also: so I fail to see much reason why urban Canadians—and I regret to say, increasing numbers of our country brethren—should be so very much surprised that, as indicated by Nova Scotia's Deputy Minister of Agriculture, (F. W. Walsh) at Montreal last week, "it is agreed that the dairy industry is a mighty sick patient."

As your letter correspondent (R. F. D.) very appropriately says: "The leaders of the government of this country had a chance to do something for the farmers when the Margarine Bill came up, but they just turned a deaf ear to it..." Those are my views, exactly. I am, Sir, etc. "MORE COWS"

The Age-Old Story

Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ. For if a man think himself to be something, when he is nothing, he deceiveth himself. But let every man prove his own work, and then shall he have rejoicing in himself alone, and not in another. . . . But God forbid that I should glory, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world is crucified unto me, and I unto the world. For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision availeth anything, nor uncircumcision, but a new creature. And as many as walk according to this rule, peace be on them, and mercy, and upon the Israel of God. I will trust in the covert of thy wings.

LONDON—(OP)—Five elephants arrived after a 7,000-mile air journey from Bangkok with only one incident reported. Attendants said one of the elephants, unsatisfied with its share of champagne, had swallowed the bottle.

Notes By The Way

A local food store reports a brisk business in the sale of buffalo meat. The meat comes from Alberta where the annual thinning of the buffalo herds has taken place.—Winnipeg Tribune.

In a recent release from the Canadian Institute of Mining and Metallurgy appears the following statement: "Coal remains Canada's (and the world's) most important mineral. Dependent for its production upon coal is iron, the most important metal." Canada, in its new drive for industrialization, is thinking seriously of developing an iron and steel industry, especially now that iron ore in huge quantities has been found on the Labrador-New Quebec border. That find is not likely to lead to iron smelting in Alberta, but the time will come when Alberta's coal will enter actively into an iron and steel industry in Western Canada. Coal today is in eclipse in Alberta due to the big oil and natural gas finds. But the fact remains that coal is still Canada's richest mineral resource.—(Lethbridge Herald.)

The other evening on a radio news program, a teen-ager asked that a number be played for her, since she was baby-sitting at such and such an address. Perhaps the girl didn't realize it, but by advertising the fact that she was alone, and by giving the address, she was inviting trouble.

Old Charlottetown

(And P. E. I.) PHOTO FINISH From a resolution passed by the House of Assembly, March, 1871: "The committee of the whole House on privileges and elections, having under their consideration the petition of Thomas W. Dodd, Esq., and other electors of Charlottetown and Royals complaining of the undue election and return of the Hon. Daniel Davies as one of the members for the said Town and Royals, on the grounds that certain votes set forth in the said petition were entered erroneously for the said Daniel Davies by the Returning Officer's poll clerk, and also that a number of schedule votes were disallowed by the Sheriff of Queen's County, on the alleged ground of insufficiency or informality in the form on which they were printed or written; also, that three sealed packages of schedule votes were received by the Sheriff previously to his making up and declaring the state of the poll on the 1st day of August last, which packages the said Sheriff declined to open, for the reason that they had not been transmitted by the Returning Officer separate from the poll books, as required by the law relating to elections, which said packages the petitioners believe contained special schedule votes given in favour of the petitioner, the said Thomas W. Dodd;

"Having heard counsel at the bar, and the several witnesses produced by petitioning candidate and the sitting member, and having carefully considered the said votes alleged to have been erroneously entered for the said Daniel Davies as well as the vote of Job Ewan, alleged to have been improperly polled for the petitioning candidate, and also having taken up and considered all the special schedule votes, including those contained in the three packages referred to, have arrived at the following conclusion, namely: That the said Daniel Davies polled at the late general election for members to serve in the House of Assembly of this Island, six hundred and sixteen votes, and the said petitioner, Thomas W. Dodd, six hundred and fifteen votes, leaving a majority in favour of the said Daniel Davies of one vote."

The Poet's Corner

ICE When Winter scourged the meadow and the hill And in the withered leafage worked his will, The water shrank and shuddered, and stood still,— Then built himself a magic house of glass, Irised with memories of flowers and grass, Wherein to sit and watch the fury pass.

—Charles G. D. Roberts.

The Passing Scene

By Observer ATHLETIC GAMES

Reports of a recent fracas (not the first one) in a well known skating rink has set me thinking of how far we have come from the right concept of games, especially athletic ones.

These, under one name or another, have been played all through the history of mankind, including both civilized and uncivilized peoples. No one would be able to measure the effect they have had on human affairs, but certainly it has been very considerable, and both good and bad.

Among the ancient Greeks and Romans, athletic games were usually rugged trials of strength and skill. Sometimes they were auxiliary to various religious exercises, and almost always they were dignified by religious sanction. The historic and celebrated Olympic games constituted the strongest bond between the provinces of independent states or cities. They were held in such high honour that some Greek philosophers held that the first twenty years or so of a male's life should be devoted entirely to athletics, beginning just as soon as the boy was able to walk. In a time when mere physical strength was about the only available weapon in war, this was understandable and logical. The Olympics were probably the first professional or semi-professional athletic games of which we have any historical records.

In medieval times, jousts and tournaments were the popular vogue in sports. It is interesting to note that baseball, the present national game of the United States, also received its greatest impetus in popularity at a time of military emergency. In its origin it goes back to the early 19th century when it was played in New England under the name of "townball", but it was during the Civil War that it began to be played according to stipulated rules by camp soldiers. Following the war it was carried to all parts of the country and soon became the rage in athletic circles. The game has gone through many changes and modifications many times but it still remains the most popular athletic activity, although in some sections of the country basketball and football have stolen some of its glamour.

Hockey, apparently, had no particular military association. It is primarily a Canadian institution in the sense that it had its origin here, and it may properly be called our national athletic game. Its introduction to the United States is comparatively recent, although sections of the country know nothing about it. An American encyclopedia of games published less than twenty years ago does not mention it at all, although it does make reference to lacrosse which is distantly related to it.

The underlying and fundamental purpose of athletics is, of course, good. It would take many paragraphs to set forth their advantages. Besides being healthful, invigorating physical exercises, it can be justly claimed that athletic games of whatever name are potentially helpful in the building of will and character generally. The rules and disciplines involved in them, if properly respected and adhered to, cannot help being strong factors in the good development of social relations. It has been proved over and over again that well supervised athletics, especially in congested areas of population, are exceedingly helpful in keeping down juvenile delinquency.

However, like all other things which man has devised for his own good, athletics can be grossly abused, with ignoble consequences, all concerned. That this unfortunate circumstance is in process in our day is, of course, a matter of record. Indeed, it is so glaringly evident that many sociologists are of opinion that athletics are now doing more harm than good. Some are suggesting that inter-collegiate playing should be drastically curtailed or even abolished altogether.

Certainly, events in the past year or two provide considerable cause for alarm. When bribery, perjury, and kindred corruptions are seen worming their evil way into athletic circles, it is time for sensible people to ponder and ponder deeply on the implications. This alarming situation has not yet, so far as we know, spread to this country, but we have no absolute certainty that it could not happen here.

We do know that things are far from satisfactory. Physical escapades and the hurling of insults in a skating rink are not by means nice things to think about. Assuredly, they do not reflect the honourable slogan, "The game's the thing!" Whenever a hockey team, a baseball team, a football team, or any other team, takes any other motto for its guidance, it ceases to serve any good purpose whatsoever.

The saddest thing about all this is the effect it will likely have on the mental attitudes and social behaviour of young boys. I do not see how the effects can be anything but unhealthy. Nothing is more damaging to a boy's mind than the perversion of some cherished possession.

Pre-occupation As next in destructive influence to the all too frequent episodes of disorder among opposing teams and their over-zealous supporters I regard the abnormal pre-occupation with hockey which seems prevalent wherever one turns. The enthusiastic, sometimes violent, manner in which people talk about it all day long in the street, in the shops (especially barber shops) where once upon a time they used to talk about other things just as important), in fact in any place where two or more people meet, one would almost assume that there is no other matter worth discussing. A well-played game of hockey is a fine thing to watch, but surely it is not a matter of life or death for anybody.

Not so many years ago on this Island, school games of all sorts, including skating, were pretty much in the nature of free for all activities with little planning and a minimum of rules and regulations. Some modern psychologists maintain that this was all to the good, that if you encourage children to do so they will find the recreational outlets they need. However, this may be, many of the smaller schools in the Province have in recent years built up really good teams in various phases of athletics. It is to be hoped that something will be done to keep these schools from going wild with respect to hockey or any other game. Within its proper limits the emphatic emphasis can render a real service to the welfare of any community. Once it is allowed to dominate all other considerations and concerns, thus giving boys the feeling that a place on his school team is all that matters in life, it becomes a grave menace.

PROFESSIONAL CARDS

Professional cards for A. Walther Gaudet, J. A. McGuigan, Byron J. Grant O.D., J. A. Carruthers R.O., Dr. John E. Sterns, Dr. A. L. MacIsaac, Bell, Mathieson & Foster, Allison M. Gillis, H. R. Doane and Company, and McDonald, Currie & Co.