

THE GUARDIAN

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"The Strongest Memory is Weaker Than the Weakest Ink" CHARLOTTETOWN, THURSDAY, JAN. 17, 1952

The Price Of Coal

Who can say what is the cost of coal, in work and risk, in men's lives and their families' sorrow? Like fishermen who daily and nightly wrestle from an unfriendly sea the fish which so readily appear on our tables, the coal miners look upon the dangers of their task as being all in a day's work. That, however, should not blind the rest of us to an appreciation of what is actually involved.

In earlier times people were less complacent about receiving the bounty of darning. They recognized and applauded the brave spirits who won for them the treasures of the earth. The McGregor Mine disaster brings to even blase moderns something of the same awareness of the courage and sacrifice which serve our needs and comfort.

A UN Police Force

The difference between an army and a police force is the degree to which the force it disposes of is the effective means of enforcing authority. A police force assumes the existence of a strong body of public opinion supporting law and order. Force is only necessary to keep in line a tiny fringe of the social structure.

The creation of a U. N. force, as approved a few days ago by the political committee at Paris, assumes that the greater part of the world will willingly keep in line with U. N. decisions. The force, made up of contingents from member nations along the lines of this country's lead, is a practical proposition only on the assumption of such general support.

In Fight For Food

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations will gain by the loss that the Department of Agriculture incurs in the retirement of Dr. G. S. H. Barton, Canada's permanent delegate to it, says the Ottawa Citizen. As deputy minister of agriculture, Dr. Barton had already served a year beyond retirement date when in 1949 he was persuaded to become special assistant to the Minister, Mr. Gardiner.

Dr. Barton was present at the Hot Springs conference called by President Roosevelt in 1943 to provide against post-war food shortages. As chairman of the interim commission that resulted, Mr. L. B. Pearson, now Canada's external affairs minister, called the Quebec Conference in 1945 at which FAO was established. Dr. Barton was Mr. Gardiner's alternate voting delegate at Quebec.

Several of the Canadian delegation's associates and advisors have continued as active supporters of FAO or have lent their services to the agency. Among them are President H. H. Hannam of the Canadian Federation of Agriculture, Dr. J. F. Booth, chief agricultural economist, and Mr. J. D. B. Harrison, Canada's chief forest economist. Mr. J. B. Rutherford, chief agricultural statistician of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics, aided a training school in Central America. Dr. E. S. Archibald, Director of the Experimental Farm Service, now heads an agricultural development mission to Ethiopia.

Many other Canadian public servants and private citizens have been helping FAO find the answers to the questions before it. Price stabilization? Mr. Frank Sheffrin. Fertilizers? Mr. G. J. Callister. Farm mechanization? Mr. W. Kalbfleisch. Plant breeding in Egypt? Prof. T. J. Harrison. Stock estimating in Chile? Mr. W. F. Ewart. Losses of Latin America's stored grain due

to insects? Dr. H. E. Gray. Rice production? Dr. L. E. Kirk. Dry farming in Ceylon? Professor E. A. Hardy. Grain storage in Ecuador? Mr. C. B. Davidson. Forestry in Mexico, in San Salvador? Mr. George Bernier and Mr. George Melrose, from the Quebec and B. C. governments. Canada is certainly pulling its weight in FAO, contributing its special knowledge of agriculture which is invaluable in the great work this organization is doing.

EDITORIAL NOTES

It is reported that General Eisenhower prefers to stay out of politics. Presumably, and we get ready to duck, he would rather be Ike than be President.

Ireland's imports of £205,000,000 worth of goods as against exports of only £80,000,000 last year indicate that austerity is a word which the Irish will have real reason to understand before long.

The discovery that there are three viruses which cause the disease we class as polio should go far to explain many of the mysteries in connection with the scourge, and lead eventually to its mastery.

It was something of a triumph for Mr. A. Arthur Irwin, chairman of the National Film Board and film commissioner, that the outstandingly effective royal visit film should have been released before Mr. Irwin's own reappointment.

King's County Board of Trade has unmistakably shown its reaction to the Kichham-MacKinnon delegation petitioning for a resumption of the slow train postal system. The members unanimously endorsed the attitude they previously took in 1949, which was to be expected from a progressive body of men such as they have proved themselves to be.

It is pointed out, says The Printed Word, that if, as half the people in Ottawa think, there is a general election this year, Mr. Abbott can easily cut back personal income tax to its 1950 figure and make people feel good about it. On the other hand, if there is no election, he can take 10 per cent more than he got in '51 without changing the law as it now is.

There is much merit in the proposal to have the eastbound C.N.R. trucks from Charlottetown leave about six in the morning rather than at nine. There will now be little added to the loads in the interval, either of mail or other goods, and the earlier delivery would make the goods carried arrive in time to be made use of in the morning, a decided advantage if it is medicine or machinery parts that have been ordered by telephone in an emergency.

What civilization brings about in fashions! Canadian women cover their ears and let their legs freeze in nylons designated by Paris or New York fashion experts; Canadian men cover their legs and let their ears freeze under cold felt hats intended for wear in London. Eskimos, both men and women, wear seal-skin mukluks on their feet, fur trousers and loose, comfortable parkas with hoods to cover the ears. On their hands they wear mitts.

Prime Minister Churchill has made it clear and definite that while Britain will support enthusiastically the North Atlantic Alliance and the inclusion of Western Germany therein, she declines to merge her army and defence force with the continental army, but will maintain her independent control just as does the U. S. In other words, together with the United States, Britain will associate with the continental army but will not be directed by it.

The Federal Government are now seeking almost complete control of our personal income taxation together with our corporation and inheritance tax fields in return for which they will give increased annual payments based on population and on the gross per capita value of Canada's national production. According to the figures submitted this would mean an increase of some \$958,000 in our revenue from Ottawa, plus another \$2,000 in accordance with the Borden-Mathieson agreement.

David Lloyd George of Dwyfor, first Earl, was born this date 1863 at Manchester, son of a Welsh schoolmaster who became a farmer and died in 1864. David became a solicitor and noted orator and from 1890 a member of parliament, rather as a Welsh nationalist than as a Liberal. The agitation over the Lords' rejection of his land-taxing budget resulted in the Parliament Act of 1911, the same year in which he carried his National Insurance Act. He was a wartime and post-war Prime Minister and an important figure in the peace conference. He died in 1945.

Getting Down To Earth Again?



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.

BACK STRETCH REVIEW

Sir,—Your paper of January 5th in "Down The Back Stretch" column, contained a record of a seven heat race won by Devilish Dorothy at Fredericton, N. B., Sept. 18, 1913 and was considered the fastest of its kind in the Maritimes. In my opinion the seven heat race, raced at the Charlottetown Exhibition on September 28, 1921 and won by Uscita was the fastest ever raced in the Maritimes.

I wish to congratulate you on the Review as I enjoyed reading it very much.

I am, Sir, etc., JOHN B. CHRISTOPHER Tignish, P. E. I.

ICE BUSHES

Sir,—Permit me to enquire why the Hillsboro River ice between Mt. Stewart and Scotchfort has not been bused up to this late date to make it safe for travelling in stormy weather.

In former years this very important job was left to the judgment of the ice buser for each district. These very capable men formed in early winter and when they decided it was safe for travel, they erected those all important bushes.

For the benefit of those who are not familiar with this particular section, I may say that there are a large number of danger spots on both sides of the river in the form of creeks and spring holes, which remain open even in hardest frost.

In years gone by, more than travelling poor, unfortunate travellers slipping into these death-traps in stormy weather. How much more easily the same thing could happen right now!

Some will say, there is not enough traffic on this section of river ice to warrant the bother and cost of this winter protection. Supposing this be true, if it would be the means of saving only one life wouldn't it be worth more than all the bushes that money could buy?

In conclusion I can say authoritatively, that there is no less than eleven inches of hard ice in any place between these above mentioned points, and it runs as thick as fourteen inches in some places. In past years it was usually considered safe for bushes at from six to eight inches.

Trusting that this gentle reminder will put the wheels of safety in motion, and thanking you for the valuable space in your paper.

I am, Sir, etc., ICE SHY Mount Stewart.

STUDY OF FRENCH ESSENTIAL

Sir,—It is most important that our boys and girls study French for various reasons. We might ask ourselves, why is France important to all of us? We read in history that when the stately Roman legions tramped on their way to conquer Gaul, as France was then called, they brought with them their language, their laws, and their customs. They built theatres, arenas, triumphal arches, public buildings and roads some of which have endured up to the present.

Their language, Latin, lived on, too, in the speech of the people of Gaul. As the years passed, it gradually changed into what we know as French. The English language has borrowed much from the French, and through the French has come to us much of the language of the Romans. As boys and girls read and study French, they should try to understand how this great influence has affected our language. They should try to understand, too, how this influence has affected our thinking, for alone with language

Old Charlottetown

(And P. E. I.) STATE OF THE MICMACS

"As to the original inhabitants of Prince Edward Island, accounts are obscure and unsatisfactory. They are a tribe of the Micmac Indians, which apparently derive their origin from the opposite coasts of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick. They were formerly numerous, but from the causes operating against Indian population wherever Europeans and especially the English have settlements, they are now reduced to a few wretched families.

"As to their character, they afford a very favourable specimen of Indian manners. They are honest, mild, inoffensive and industrious. Both sexes are tall, well formed and even robust. Their complexions are strabillous but not very dark, with good European features but expressive of languor and dejection. Their hair is long, black and very coarse. They are comfortably clad, and wear many ornaments of silver—as coins, crosses and rings. For their present demicivilization they are indebted to the Roman Catholic religion, to which they have become pious and zealous converts. They live in wigwams, and travel thro' the country like gipsies in Europe.

From the manuscript journal of Dr. Edward Walsh, 1803, recently acquired by the Public Archives Ottawa.

come the ideas of the people who use it.

Why should we learn French? More than 60 per cent of the words in the English language come from the French. In the Eleventh Century the people of England spoke a language called Anglo-Saxon. When William, Duke of Normandy, in France, conquered England at the battle of Hastings, in 1066, he shared the conquered lands with his men, who became the ruling class in England. As a result at the English court and in the castles of the nobles Norman French was the only language spoken.

As the conquered English knew no French and the victorious French knew no Anglo-Saxon they had to find some way to understand each other. So they used some words of one language and some of the other. As time passed the two languages blended and made a new language—the one we know as English today. You will remember how the language that the Romans brought into Gaul changed to French; now one sees how the Norman-French language, translated to England, mingled with Anglo-Saxon to make English.

In books for children as well as in books for grown-up people there are sometimes French words and phrases that are not explained. The authors of these books expect their readers to understand such words and phrases without explanation. One will have a pleasant feeling of satisfaction if he can do so.

French is a great help to a lawyer, a professor or a teacher, because knowing about another people—its history and its civilization—throws more light on whatever he may be teaching, whether it is law, history or arithmetic. One will enjoy knowing French when he hears it sung at concerts or the opera or spoken at the movies; or when he goes to Quebec, Montreal or Louisiana or perhaps to Europe, where almost everywhere French is understood; or when he tunes in on a short-wave radio; or when he can read a French bestseller without waiting for an English translation to appear. It is a mark of a well-educated person to know more than one language. One's understanding of other people and of the world in which he lives will be broader and richer if he knows at least one language besides his own.

As one reads a French book, or a French newspaper, he will find many words that look like English. Watch for such words. Remember that 60 per cent of the English words come from the French. Here are a number of such words: Mad, same, page, table, place, France,

The Poet's Corner

TO AN OLD ARISTOPHENES

Three hundred years ago Whose was the scholar thumb That browned your pages so?

Athenis is never dumb To any laughter-lover Loosing your mottled cover,

Yet, Aristophanes, For me your voice is mingled With some old scholar's weeze,

Whose English doublet tingled, While his weak body shook With merriment for this book.

—G. Rostrever Hamilton.

The Age-Old Story

As they went out, behold, they brought to him a dumb man possessed with a devil. And when the devil was cast out, the dumb spake; and the multitudes marvelled, saying, It was never so seen in Israel.

Dominion Of What?

(The Letter Record) General election for all Canada is quite probable in 1962. Mr. St. Laurent, who is highly respected throughout the nation, is tired of the compromises and trickery of a political system in which he began to be active late in life. Liberal Party politicians are anxious that he should lead another election and then retire, but he would prefer to retire before the election.

Difference to the Liberal Party of these two programmes would be quite considerable. There is not as yet any sign that the Pro-Cons are making substantial gains. The worst mistakes of the Government, such as its welfare state wastefulness, are not known to most of the public. Thus the Government has an excellent opportunity of being returned with a somewhat smaller majority. Retirement of the P. M. before the election would undoubtedly worsen the prospect.

Note that we are forced to refer to a General Election for all Canada. We must not say a Dominion election, and, as Dr. E. A. Forsey has so pungently argued, this is the only country in the world that has no way of describing its status. It is not a Kingdom nor a Republic, nor a Commonwealth, nor a Union. It used to be a Dominion, and everyone knew what that word meant, a self-governing nation in alliance with the other nations of the British Commonwealth. With that status lost, there is no way of describing the constitutional position of Canada. It is high time to revive a true nationalism in Canada, by calling this country a Kingdom. Until that is done no one knows how to describe it.

Paris, marche, content, cousin, commence, robe, surprise, rose, minute, theatre, auto, crayon, action, costume, retourne, arrive, rouge, valise, bonbon, furieux, grotesque, retourne, passe, question, bagages.

In most cases these words have the same meaning as the English words they resemble, but they do not sound the same. One will be able to pronounce them after he has learned the sounds of the vowels and consonants in French.

I am, Sir, etc., P. A. ARSENAULT, Teacher.

Tignish Shore, P. E. I. For Men's Clothing That Fits J.P. MacPherson & Son 157 Queen St.

Notes By The Way

City Council was right in changing the wording on its Sunday sports plebiscite to exclude horse racing. The people of Vancouver will certainly draw the line at Sunday racing.

There is reason for broadening the Sunday law here as has been done in Toronto to provide for musical and other performances, and the general run of sports. These are being held now on Sunday with the support of public opinion. They are financed by the sale of tickets prior to the performance or by "collections" at the gate.

A change in the law as proposed would not introduce Sunday entertainment or sports, but would do away with the ticket selling, subterfuges now resorted to.—Vancouver News-Herald.

The brutal slaying of a young cocker spaniel by a New Brunswick man has earned the culprit a sentence of six months in jail, without the option of a fine. It is inherent in our system of justice that the punishment cannot fit the crime in such cases, because civilized society cannot condone the same kind of cruelty upon which it sits in judgment. A dog, a noble and a lovable friend of man, a companion of our Creator, entitled to the protection of humanity, has been killed in a singularly heastly manner. The offender is in jail for six months. It seems tragic that a dog's life can be so cheap.—Saint John Telegraph-Journal.

A five-year-old boy saw his duty and "done it" recently at HMCS Stadacona. As per tradition, a guard had been mounted, the band was in attendance and two field pieces were ready on the parade square to herald the opening of a court-martial at Stadacona. Promptly at 0930 the order to fire was given. But number one gun didn't respond. Gattered gunners quickly switched to number two gun. The charge was rammed home, but the breech would not close. The gunnery officer, his staff and some ordnance men leaped to correct the difficulties. Meanwhile, young Barry Jensen, son of Lt. Cdr. L. B. Jensen, man in first lieutenant of Stadacona, had been watching the proceedings with boyish interest. He thought he had a way to help—the adults Windsor Daily Star.

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