

THE GUARDIAN

Authorized as Second Class Mail Post Office Department, Ottawa, The Thomson Co. Ltd.

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CIRCULATION

"Covers Prince Edward Island like the dew" "The strongest memory is weaker than the weakest ink".

CHARLOTTETOWN, THURSDAY, FEB. 18, 1954

Dr. Coady's Suggestion

Addressing the annual convention of the United Maritime Fishermen at Amherst yesterday, Dr. M. M. Coady, director emeritus of St. Francis Xavier Extension Department stressed one problem of the fisheries industry which is equally applicable to Maritime industry as a whole. This is the need for cheap electrical power.

Some of the ways of developing electricity in the Maritimes, Dr. Coady maintains, are as out of line with modern business and technology "as goose grease and red flannel are for the cure of pneumonia in modern education."

"Coal," he pointed out, "is mined by hand in Springhill, pushed on boxes to the hoisting place, brought to the surface, dumped in a chute, loaded on box cars, carried on the rails to Tormentine, put on the ferry and taken off at Borden, hauled to Summerside or Charlottetown, then shovelled by hand into trucks and finally carried to the generating stations. All this could be done by generating the electricity at the pit mouth or in the mine and shooting it to P. E. I. by cable. There are no tariff laws and no big business in Quebec or Ontario to block such progress."

One way to get that power here from coal or from the tides, Dr. Coady points out, is to follow the pattern of the Tennessee Valley Authority (Commission) for six southern states in Republic to the south of us. The American Government put \$730 million in this venture to generate electricity from the Tennessee and Ohio Rivers to prevent land erosion, to bring about reforestation, and, as a consequence, they have created a great inland waterway, great industries and a prosperous country that only a few years ago was the deadest part of the U. S. A."

What is needed, in Dr. Coady's opinion, is a Maritime Power Commission, uniting the efforts of the three Maritime Provincial Governments working with the Federal Government. This is not a new proposal, but it is one that has been given far less attention than it deserves. A practical survey of its possibilities is among the most important issues of the day.

Dr. Coady also emphasized in his address that success in the fishing industry is not necessarily identical with the success of the fishermen. Certain types of fish—all those varieties we call ground fish—could be handled by a few big highly-mechanized companies. This would give employment to a small group of people, but it would not take care of the 38,000 fishermen and their families who are scattered along the thousands of miles of our coastline. "The overall good of our Maritime economy postulates that, since they have to be there anyway to prosecute this valuable phase of the industry, they should be encouraged to handle as much of the offshore or ground fish industry as is compatible with science and efficiency. Well-equipped groups of men doing this at strategic points would relieve the situation for those who carry on the inshore fisheries."

Old Fashioned Winter

The changes in climate that people think they experience are seldom real, according to a writer for Unesco Features. Extremes of heat or cold, of drought or rainfall, occur at intervals, many years apart. Because those of childhood seem most dramatic, they are longest remembered, and we are easily tempted to compare present average weather with the remembered extremes. The present generation of youngsters will also have their memories.

Climate does change, however. Within the past hundred years the average temperature of the inhabited parts of the earth has risen about 2 degrees, the rise in this country being close to the average. This is much more significant than might seem. A drop of 4 degrees would bring the glaciers back over large areas of Canada, Northern Europe and Asia. As it is the glaciers are retreating and new land is being farmed that remained frozen for many centuries.

The melting of Arctic ice may well prove a problem in low-lying coastal areas for if continued it means a raising of the sea-level. The process is slow, however, and it need not be expected that anyone living will be able to observe the change.

Many reasons are advanced to account for the warming-up process. A favorite is that the high rate of volcanic activity more than a century ago sent dust into the atmosphere which resulted in a decrease in the heating effect of the sun's rays. Another theory is that an increase or decrease of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere has a contrary effect, the gas permitting direct rays to pass through and be changed into radiant heat waves which are absorbed by the carbon dioxide instead of passing through again.

An increase in carbon dioxide thus means higher temperatures, whether the increase is natural through volcanic action, animal metabolism or, the major source today, man's combustion of fuel. These are balanced in part by the activity of plants and the weathering of limestone but in the past fifty years the carbon dioxide content of the atmosphere has increased by 10 per cent, an amount which would account for the temperature rise.

The prospect, then, is that temperature will continue to rise while man burns coal, oil, wood and other carbon products. We may still fool ourselves that we can observe the change but observed or not it will be real.

Pyramid Texts

There was an Egyptian civilization as far back as 4000 years ago. What it was like in its politics, culture, religion, and education, is a subject that has provided research for Western scholars for many centuries. Now and then some discovery was made, but it was not until 1880 that any real progress was noted; this was brought about by discovery of written texts on the inner walls of the tombs of several of the ancient kings. These texts are supposed to have been inscribed by Egyptian priests in or about the year 2200 B.C. Done in hieroglyphics or picture writing there are in all more than 1000 distinct characters, placed together so neatly that they take up no more space than modern print.

The work of copying, deciphering, and translating the ancient texts has been shared by noted scholars of many countries; it has remained for Dr. Samuel Mercer, a native of Newfoundland who has lived in the United States for quite a number of years, and who is regarded as one of the world's leading Egyptologists, to bring out the first translation under the title "The Pyramid Texts." The translation is in four volumes and is accompanied by a comprehensive commentary.

While this result of long years of study and research is of concern mainly to scholars, many people in all walks of life will be interested in finding out something of the culture, religious beliefs, and morals of an ancient people. It is good for 20th century man to be reminded from time to time of the part played in the drama of human progress by old and almost forgotten civilizations.

EDITORIAL NOTES

The treaty of peace with Germany and Austria seems to be as far from being effected as ever. Reports of the four-power Foreign Ministers conference which closes today seem to indicate that almost everything was discussed except the peace treaties.

This Province will not be in the path of totality of an eclipse of the sun at least until the year 2025 and perhaps much later according to the president of the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada. If Islanders wish to observe a total eclipse they will have to go elsewhere but anyone who wants to see the sun can come to the Island.

More economical production of power from coal in the Maritimes seems to be in the offing with the commencement of a study of its possibilities by Prof. A. G. Christie at the request of the Federal Government. From a number of sources recently there has been criticism of the situation where Maritime coal has been at a loss for markets and at the same time the area continues to suffer from lack of cheap electrical power.

Niccolò Paganini, Italian violin virtuoso, was born this date 1784. After an adventurous youth, having put in a prodigious amount of technical practice, he began his actual career when twenty-two years old. Twenty-five years later he toured the capitals of Europe, amassing a considerable fortune, which, however, he largely lost through gambling. His technique was wonderful, his double-stopping and harmonics being unsurpassed as were his roundness and beauty of tone in soft passages. A disolute character and lack of refinement alone marred his interpretations.



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.

CAR SIGNAL LIGHTS

Sir—This to voice my approval of the ideas expressed by "L. S. J." in this column on February 15th. He suggests those trucks, whose bodies make their drivers' hand signals invisible to those following, should be required by law to be equipped with directional signal lights. Such a measure would bring to an end the guessing game which a motorist so often has to play when following a large truck and which is too dangerous to be tolerated.

The idea of having all motor vehicles equipped with directional lights is a good one. Hand signals endanger a driver's left arm, take up too much of his attention at crucial times, are nasty to give in bad weather and are of no value to traffic one is meeting at night. Nearly all cars sold in the United States now have directional lights, and all larger cars sold here are so equipped. To bring about increased use of this safety device may I suggest that, at the forthcoming session of the Provincial Legislature, the above mentioned measure concerning large trucks be taken, and in addition: (1) Directional light signals be given the same legal status as hand signals on our highways. (2) It be made compulsory for all new vehicles sold or registered for the first time in the province to be equipped with directional signal lights.

It is not too much to ask anyone buying a new vehicle to pay approximately one-half of one per cent extra to help make it safer for himself and for others to use his highways. Such a plan started a few years ago would mean that within a few years practically all the vehicles in use here would be equipped with this device, and we would thus attain the new, safer uniformity.

I am, Sir, Sir, Sir, PROGRESS

The Poet's Corner

DEDICATION ODE

They say that in the unchanging place Where all we loved is always dear We meet our mornings face to face And find at last our twentieth year.

They say (and I am glad they say) It is so, and it may be so; It may be just the other way; I cannot tell. But this I know:

From quiet homes and first beginning, Out to the undiscovered ends, There's nothing worth the wear of winning. But laughter and the love of friends.

—Hilare Belloc

The Age Old Story

The Lord knoweth the thoughts of men, that they are vanity.

TECHNICAL EXPERTS

STOCKHOLM (C)—Two Swedish technical experts have been engaged by other countries through UN negotiations. Arne Lejefors will assist Turkey in textile techniques, and Dr. Fritz Betzen will investigate petroleum geology in Israel.

Notes By The Way

The famous old sailing ship Cutty Sark is shortly to undergo complete reconditioning and re-rigging. Work is also about to start on the construction of the dry berth at Greenwich on the Thames where the Cutty Sark will find her permanent home, and trial hoies have already been bored. It is expected that the rehousing of the vessel will be completed by March, 1955.—U. K. Information.

Had an "American tourist chanced to drop into the Bluebell Inn at Coking one day recently and found a cow in the public bar being offered a pint of beer (which she declined) he would have had an interesting letter to send to the folks back home on the odd customs of the English. But she was an unusual cow—one Sheriff.

Old Charlottetown

(And P. E. I.)

VISIT TO GEORGETOWN

"On Thursday last His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor (Sir John Harvey) and suite paid a visit to Georgetown. A number of gentlemen from the town and neighborhood met His Excellency at the Drury Lane theatre. Upon inquiry they discovered that the order for this guard had been given by Charles II in the 1660's. Neither Charles nor any succeeding monarch ever troubled to rescind the order.—From Winnipeg Free Press.

Then there is the curious case of The London Times. When Northcliffe acquired a controlling interest in The Times, early in this century, he strove to increase the efficiency of the management. It was noticed that each Friday evening a well dressed, dapper little man, in a black bowler, entered the Drury Lane theatre, upon inquiry they discovered that the order for this guard had been given by Charles II in the 1660's. Neither Charles nor any succeeding monarch ever troubled to rescind the order.—From Winnipeg Free Press.

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The Passing Scene

By Observer A CENSUS REPORT

My personal view is that officials of the Department of Industry and Natural Resources did a fine thing when they put a little census return on the back of every angling and hunting license. I am not speaking particularly of its practical value, although of course that is what the officials had in mind when they introduced the innovation in their own words: "this information will be of great assistance in determining the most advisable open seasons and bag limits so as to conserve sufficient breeding stock and at the same time permit the taking of the largest desirable surplus."

I have heard it said more than once that the return has no practical value worth mentioning. According to this cynical view most anglers don't bother to keep track of every little trout they happen to catch, and they have a rough idea of the number of fishing trips they make during the season; they multiply this number by 4, 5, or 6 (depending on how many fish they think ought to catch each time); do a little elementary addition or subtraction, whichever looks better, and there it is.

Whether there be any truth in the rumour I have no way of knowing, though I presume the same wardens have. Certainly, if this way of reporting is practised on any large scale, there is little in the census figures that would be of much help to the department. I can speak only for myself and say that I am very meticulous in keeping proper records. Every fish is solemnly counted and recorded and catalogued with respect to date caught, weight, length, and colour.

In another book I make a note of every fish that gets away from me, being very careful to put down its estimated weight. Incidentally, it always annoys me to find from the records that the really big fish are the ones I don't get. I have been told that that is a general complaint.

More important than the practical statistical value of the census, as I see it, is what might be called its contemplative value. It provides a good psychological stimulant at a time of the year when it is needed most. It reminds one that, snow-drifts and frozen ponds notwithstanding, the closed season is getting shorter and shorter by the hour. Then, too, looking over the records, as a necessary preliminary to filling in the census return, brings back a lot of good memories which somehow warm one's heart on a cold and snappy day.

If there were no census return to keep any records at all, and that would be a pity. As it is, when I get tired of hearing and reading about the world crisis or any

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