

Published every week-day morning at 130 Prince Street, Charlottetown, P. E. I., by The Thomson Company Limited.

MONDAY, JAN. 10, 1953

The New Congress

Canadians, who are used to seeing one political party or another in a dominant position in both government and parliament, find it a little difficult to understand how any administration can carry out its responsibilities with any degree of effectiveness when it has to deal with a legislature that is controlled by the "opposition."

It is much too early to predict the course of events with any reasonable accuracy. The naming of Committees—which wield tremendous influence in the American legislative system—has barely begun; and it is a long drawn-out process.

It is clear, however, that Democrats in general—except, of course, the ultra-conservative Southerners—have more sympathy with President Eisenhower's "middle of the road" concept of politics and economics than have most Republicans; a fact which, it may be assumed, will not make things any harder—it may even make them a bit easier—for administration policies in domestic affairs.

Stolen Property

Strange how a perfectly respectable word finds itself, by a series of apparently unconnected events, in bad company. "Progressive" is one such word.

Perhaps the trouble started in the United States in 1948 when the American Communists and their sympathizers sponsored Henry Wallace as a "Progressive Party" candidate for the Presidency.

In recent months there have been signs that both liberals and conservatives in both major American parties are concerned about this misuse of a good word and would

like to see it regain its original etymological meaning—that of forward-looking (as an adjective) and of one who advocates progress (as a noun).

There is no doubt that most of us make too much of names and labels. All the same it is a pity that, quite unwittingly, free world citizens have allowed the Communists—who are retrogressive rather than progressive in their disregard of fundamental human rights—to lay claim to a word which does not belong to them.

Farm Cash Income

Milk production in Canada for 1954 is estimated by Agriculture Minister Gardiner at 16.9 billion pounds, about half-a-billion pounds greater than in 1953.

Writing in the Montreal Gazette's year-end Commercial Review and Forecast, Mr. Gardiner points out that the livestock industry over the last three years has represented about 40 per cent annually of the sales of all farm products and sales have reacted to the buoyant domestic market.

Wheat is likely to account for most of the decline in the total farm cash income during 1954, although there are also substantial reductions in returns from barley, rye, corn and potatoes.

EDITORIAL NOTES

This date, 1840, marks the anniversary of the establishment of penny postage in Great Britain. As far back as 1680, however, a London merchant, William Dockwra, brought the system into short-lived existence, charging one penny for delivery of all packets up to 1 pound weight.

The number 9 may not have any mystical quality about it; but it certainly has curious properties, as is shown in the following particulars: Any number multiplied by 9 produces a sum of figures which, added together, continually makes 9.

A new physical description of the universe was presented at the recent annual meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. A study of the Hydra Cluster of galaxies—representing the outermost edge of the visible universe—suggests that the universe is three times as old as previously believed (up to six billion years) and it is three times as big if the distance from earth to Hydra is taken as an indication of size.



PUBLIC FORUM

This column is open to the discussion by correspondents of questions of interest. The Guardian does not necessarily endorse the opinions of correspondents.

OUR CAR FERRY SERVICE

Sir,—Some three years ago in your column, your publication was kind enough to reprint a letter from the writer in regard to the urgency of seeking a replacement for the now obsolete ferry known as the S.S. Prince Edward Island, serving between Port Borden and Cape Tormentine.

To the best of my knowledge, nothing has been done by any person or persons in authority towards attaining this goal—and another three years has gone by! While I do not profess to be an authority on marine equipment, it would seem perfectly obvious that a piece of machinery nearly forty years old that has served so well and so faithfully, must surely be nearing the end of its days of usefulness.

The people of Prince Edward Island are exceedingly grateful for the comfortable and reliable service being provided by the M.V. "Abegweit"; but they are also greatly concerned with the future transportation problems that will arise as traffic increases in volume, and it is extremely doubtful if adequate service can be given by a boat that has long outlived its purpose, such as the S.S. "Prince Edward Island".

It is also very doubtful if the people of Prince Edward Island would request that a replacement of the old ferry be made with a boat of such a luxurious type as the M.V. "Abegweit", and it would seem a sensible thing if a new boat of much less pretentiousness were put into service.

However, as mentioned above, some three years have passed with no concrete action as yet being taken, as far as we know. New ice-breaking ferries cannot be purchased over the counter like groceries, and much thought and planning has to be done even before actual construction commences.

The children scatter after school, Bright as birds in yellow, red, In green and blue. They cry like birds, Flying home for skates and sleds. On hill and pond they congregate, Chatter like merry chickadees. In the lemon-colored winter dusk, Gay in the lone and leafless trees.

More Investigations

By Heath Macquarrie

Senator McCarthy is not the only American legislator who makes the headlines in the year-end Congressional investigative functions. Chairman J. Carroll Reece of the House of Representatives committee investigating leading philanthropic foundations is the latest figure to command public attention for his "fact-finding" activities.

The Reece Committee has been scrutinizing the operation of the giant tax-exempt organizations like the Rockefeller Foundation, the Ford Foundation and Carnegie Endowment which, according to the committee majority, have become so rich as to constitute a government in itself.

Not unnaturally the accused corporations were generally quick to deny the allegations of Mr. Reece and his Republican colleagues on the committee and they found strong defenders in the Democratic minority. The two representatives from that party filed a minority report which charged that Reece had been unfair in denying the foundations the right to testify and in permitting them only to submit written statements.

In the words of their minority report, "the foundations have been indicted and convicted under procedures which can only be characterized as barbaric." A republican member of the committee says his name was put to the majority report without his knowledge. It is therefore likely that Chairman Reece will not be submitting the opinion of the majority of the committee. In any case there is little prospect of the Democrat-controlled House of Representatives adopting his recommendations on the investigated foundations.

Many educational, and medical institutions in Canada benefit from these great organizations now under the Congressional scrutiny and many individual scholars in the country have reason to thank them for valued assistance.

We suddenly wake up some morning during the next three or four summers and find that due to lack of foresight and action, there is only one boat plying between Port Borden and Cape Tormentine. To ask the M.V. "Abegweit" to carry on this service alone would be placing a terrific strain over and above normal designed requirements, and it is reasonable to assume that it would only be a matter of time before that ship would also be laid up for a major repair job.

NOTES BY THE WAY

There aren't too many people, except perhaps the youngsters, who like to see the arrival of winter. But there is recompense for the snow we shovel and the heavy clothing we wear during this period of the year in that our families remain closer to us than at any other time of the year.

Thus we are learning once again the lesson that a prosperous agriculture means a prosperous Canada, in spite of the extent to which the nation has become industrialized. It is axiomatic that when our farmers have less money to spend, there is less money available to be distributed in wages to those who depend on industry and business for a livelihood.

On the other hand the modern child is too reluctant to exert himself. If the little troublemakers had to walk three miles to school and back every day, perhaps they wouldn't feel like cutting up at night. The modern child is definitely spoiled in that respect.

It is an unfortunate part of human nature to attach labels to people. The attaching of them is a form of laziness. If you can tag somebody as good or bad, smart or stupid, energetic or lazy, you don't have to think any more about him, or try to understand him, or bother to figure out why he acts as he does.

Lochmaben, a Dumfriesshire burgh, has a curiosity—a tombstone in its old churchyard marking a grave in which no one was interred. A remarkable story is told locally of that memorial. In 1801 the Emperor Paul I of Russia was assassinated while voicing unfriendly feelings towards Britain.

Manitoba oil industry has not been of the gusher type so far but since the first commercial discovery of oil a few years ago has shown steady, solid growth. At the end of September there were 204 producing wells in the southwestern part of the province and the average monthly production for the last nine months of the year reached 180,000 barrels.

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The Poet's Corner. WINTER BIRDS? The children scatter after school, Bright as birds in yellow, red, In green and blue. They cry like birds, Flying home for skates and sleds.

For Quality Mildness Value. ZIG ZAG CIGARETTE TOBACCO. CANADA'S FASTEST SELLING CIGARETTE TOBACCO. The Age Old Story. The heathen roared, the kingdoms were moved; he uttered his voice, the earth melted.