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 "The strongest memory is weaker than the weakest ink."
 FRIDAY, DEC. 17, 1954

Farm Aviation

Planes have been used for some time by agricultural research scientists and technicians in their war against insects and diseases which ravages fields and forests. Now comes word from the United States Department of Agriculture's Research Service that experiments are being made with planes in actual farm operations, such as seeding, fertilizer and insecticide spraying, and even some phases of harvesting. Some experts are talking about a flying truck that will make present methods of hauling and dumping obsolete. The main difficulty the researchers have had to encounter so far is the current trend in military aviation design which calls for even greater speeds and higher altitudes. This, obviously, would be of no help in farm aviation which demands very low speeds, low flying, and facility for small-space turning. Oddly enough, it is easier to develop a plane to fly many hundreds of miles an hour than one to glide with slow and unhurried motion over the fields and meadows.

There is no doubt, however, that, if and when the demands of military security diminish, thus making possible more thorough research in other fields, a way will be found to substitute planes for tractors, trucks, and live-horse power. Whether they will come into general use is another matter. The first requisite, it would seem, is a downward revision in farmers' costs for essential equipment and maintenance to bring them into a more equitable ratio to the average farm income. Planes, even the slowest and most frugally furnished, are expensive items. Until such time as farming becomes considerably more lucrative than it is at the present time it seems likely that most farmers will have to get along with less spectacular but perhaps just as serviceable equipment.

And Sudden Death

Accidents now rank third in the list of causes of death, far exceeding the death toll of infectious diseases. Total figures might indicate that home is the most dangerous place because the greatest number of accidents occur there. It is pointed out in the Occupational Health Bulletin, however, that this is merely because more hours are spent there than elsewhere.

Considering the number of hours spent in each place, home accidents are 41 per cent below the average of home, work and public places. Public places have an accident rate 16 per cent above average and places of work 25 per cent above.

This high level of accidents at work is in spite of efforts to make for safe working conditions. It is estimated that today less than 15 per cent of accidents can be attributed to the machine. The human factor obviously contributes the other 85 per cent.

In other words negligence, lack of attention, preoccupation, or disregard for safety rules and regulations results in close to nine out of ten accidents. Other figures indicate that particular individuals are involved in far more than their "fair" share of accidents, a fact which is the hope as well as the despair of safety engineers. It is possible to recognize the characteristics of individuals which make them a menace to themselves and others on the highway and in charge of machinery generally. In some measure the dangerous attitudes can be corrected by education. Where that is not possible the only answer is to bar such individuals from activities in which they may bring disaster to others.

Governor Muskie's Prospects

Whatever the weaknesses of the United States electoral system may be, the law by which officials elected in November do not take office until late in January may be considered an advantage. At all events it gives said officials a breathing spell between electioneering and assumption of responsibility. In the interim they have opportunity for calm appraisal of their new duties and, in the case of State Governors, for leisurely consultation with permanent administrative assistants. The break must be especially welcome to the newly elected Governor of a State where the Legislature is on the other side of the political fence.

Democratic Governor-elect Muskie of Maine is in a better position than some others, from the standpoint of the waiting period, since the election in that State is always held in September. From all reports, however, he has plenty to think about and it isn't likely that he will find the four

months interval too long for considering strategies and policies. To begin with he has to face a Legislature which is predominantly Republican in the good Maine tradition. Out of a total House of Representatives membership of 151 only 34 are Democrats; in the Senate the situation is somewhat similar, 6 out of 33. To make matters worse, or at any rate no easier, department heads have requested for the next two years—the life of the Administration—\$11 million more than the estimated revenue, while requests for capital expenditure total \$5 million more than funds which are in hand. It is plain to see that Mr. Muskie's prospects are not exactly rosy; but they have at least one bright spot. For two sessions he was Democratic minority leader in the House and, reportedly, won the respect of the Republican majority for his fairness in debate and reasonableness in his criticism of the administration. Consequently, many of the Republican legislators have assured him of their good-will and sympathetic consideration of his fiscal policies; provided, of course, these policies are not calculated to affront the conservative sensibilities of the Maine people. And that is not all likely; all Maine politicians are conservative in their political beliefs—they have to be if they are to survive. About the only difference between the Republicans and the Democrats on that score is that the former are usually a bit more emphatic and aggressive than their traditional opponents.

Since, geographically, Maine is closer to us than any of the other States, and in view of the fact that the economic problems of a large area of the State are very similar to our own, Islanders will wish Governor Muskie and his Republican-controlled Legislature special success in their bipartisan efforts to give good government and to strengthen the fiscal and economic structure.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Canadians and Americans have long worked together at all levels of government and business. It is not surprising that Maine and New Brunswick should be prepared to assist one another in the local but highly important matter of civil defence.

Too much water has caused the postponement of the trials of what is hoped to be the fastest boat afloat. Donald Malcolm Campbell's attempt on the world water-speed record of 178.497 m.p.h. has been put off until after Christmas because of floods at the builder's yard at Preston in Britain's Lake District.

The drop of about two per cent in Canada's Gross National Product for 1954 still leaves this year as the second highest in history. Last year's Provincial budget, prepared by the then Provincial Treasurer, now Judge Darby, allowed for such a decline. It is encouraging to note that the Montreal branch of the American Marketing Association estimates that 1955 will see a five-per-cent increase in business activity.

The action of Greece in voting for the New Zealand resolution that the U. N. should not now consider the sovereignty of Cyprus is a distinct contribution to the stability and unity of the free world. At another time, when critical defence considerations are not so vital, the question may again be taken up. The present conduct of Greece will make it easier for it to be raised in an amicable manner.

Nothing could be more sensible than the proposal that the United States sell surplus food products to Communist countries. They need the food to raise their standard of living and the United States needs to find markets which will not adversely affect world agricultural prices. It has long been recognized, also, that the relationship of buyer and seller tends to be more friendly than the purely political.

When settlers came to the United States there was an average of nine inches of productive topsoil, observes Lloyd E. Partain, former president of the Soil Conservation Society of America. "In the intervening years that average across the country has been reduced to about six inches." The Canadian situation is much the same. Our farmers are faced with the task of both conserving the soil that remains and bringing it back to its original productivity.

William Lyon Mackenzie King, Canadian Liberal statesman, was born this date 1874. He became deputy minister of the newly formed Department of Labour in 1900 and occupied other important posts. In 1908 he entered Parliament but was not re-elected and was out of Parliament for eight years, finally getting a Prince Edward Island seat. While representing this Province he was chosen Leader of his party and commenced a remarkable career which included a longer tenure of the office of Prime Minister than any other in the history of the Empire and Commonwealth.



Light Up Time

PUBLIC FORUM

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

CHRISTMAS JOY

Sir—There is a joy in Christmas that is different, deeper and stays longer than the world can give. The joy of the angels the night Jesus was born, the joy of the shepherds, the earth resounded with new joy that night. Heaven was trying to tell the world the most amazing event of history had taken place, an event that all nations would rejoice in all down through the ages and the joy of Christmas is for us. It is not only the joy of a good dinner and the meeting of good friends. It is something far deeper. It is the joy that Jesus earned over his followers and said: "Oh that my joy might remain in you, and that your joy might be full." His joy, the joy that Jesus felt when he looked at a lily, or a bird, or the children, Galilee, or the face of his heavenly father. Jesus means that we should share that joy, that kind of joy, and that is followed by no regrets.

But we must prepare for that joy. We must sow the seeds of kindness, kindness, kindness, kind thoughts, kind letters, charitable actions all the time. It was said of Jesus: "He went about doing good." That sums up his life. He found much of his joy in helping others to be happy. Our happiness is in helping others to be happy.

We must practise the presence of God. This may seem to be a very high ideal. God is so exalted, the maker of this amazing universe whose wonders are all about us, and who is so far above us, that it is almost impossible to expect to live daily so near Him, and always be responsive to His will, but is not that the way He wants us to live? It will not be for us a senseless way, but it will be the way the Master walked, and when He means and what He wants of us.

Christmas has begotten a new spirit of good will in the world. We all feel it more or less. Many instances of kindness come to me. I remember a very old Highlander in ourselves. It may seem to be around Christmas morning with a bottle of honey and a flask of whiskey, treating his neighbours as he came along. That was his way of expressing his joy and his good will. One other instance, I remember out of many that one cow that supplied milk for our family. Hay was scarce that winter, and she got only straw. Christmas morning I went to feed her, and there she was eating hay, and I am sure I saw a smile on her face. A neighbour farmer, out of all neat of his heart, had brought an armful.

The world is full of "Little deeds of kindness, Little words of love." The spirit of Jesus has overflowed upon the world. We only wish it could flow farther out.

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

Stanley Bridge

Old Charlottetown and P. E. I. F. W. C. HONOR STUDENTS

The closing exercises of Prince of Wales College, N. B., School were held last Friday afternoon. An interesting valedictory address was read by Mr. William Bentley, Dr. Anderson responded in an admirable address in which he commended the students for their diligence and dwell on the value of a college education. Hon. Neil MacLeod, Senator Haythorne, Revs. Walter P. Taylor, J. A. Gordon and David Sutherland made pleasing addresses, after which the students dispersed.

Graduating diplomas were won by the following students: Walter Shaw, Covehead, 92 percent (Governor General's silver medalist); Albert McLaren, Georgetown, 90 percent (Governor General's bronze medalist); Janet Ross, Bedeque, 89 percent, and William E. Bentley, Kensington, 89 percent (equal); Ernest Brehaut, Guernsey Cove, 87 percent; Catherine McLaren, Belle Creek, 86 percent; Vernon Beer, Charlottetown, 78 percent; Donald Mac-

The Human Situation

Lord Hailsham in the London Spectator

The shocking thing about post-Christian pessimism is not the pessimism, for, on its assumptions, this is reasonable enough, but the illiteracy of the claim to be something new. It is as if Homer had never written that Zeus dispenses good and evil things to man, but mostly evil. The Greek tragedians, the Hellenistic epigrammatists, the Alexandrian writers of hexameters, the books of Ecclesiastes and Job, Lucretius, Shakespeare, the Russian novelists, all are full to brimming with the sadness of human things. "Sunt lacrimae rerum et mentem mortalia tangunt."

To suggest that it is only the twentieth century that has at last become fully aware of the "human situation" and finds it "less and less" bearable is not even arguable; it is plain illiterate, and that is all that there is to be said about it.

But, has the situation become worse? Is this what has given the post-Christian pessimist the jitters? The natural life of man in the twentieth century, though not solitary, is shorter, nastier, busier and more crowded than any other. But this is scarcely hot news. Man began as a precarious collector of seeds quite a number of years ago, and during this time, I suppose, the vast majority of human beings have died before their time in ignorance and poverty, of plague, pestilence and famine, battle, murder and sudden death. The plain truth is that the nineteenth and twentieth centuries for the first time gave men in the mass a chance to acquire a bit of comfort and live something like the spirit of the Psalmist. No doubt there have been things in our time horrible enough to contemplate.

The "century of the Common Man" has hardly lived up to expectation. On the whole, in some respects, it compares rather ill with some of the preceding centuries of privilege, but by and large, the birth rate goes down, and the expectation of life goes up. No doubt, "the human situation" is still "full of misery and tragedy." But why is it less and less acceptable? The dark comedy of the age of Shakespeare was a deal worse.

Sooner or later I suppose we will have to deal with the hydrogen bomb. I confess that arguments based on this invention make me mildly irritable. No doubt the hydrogen bomb offers prospects of hideous disasters yet to come. But was it worse than the absence of antiseptics at the battle of Hastings? The philosophy which is more shocked at Hiroshima than Troy is ultimately devoid of all value other than quantity, and therefore without value of any kind. Either the spectacle of a single murdered child is intolerable to any one who contemplates its implications, or else the hydrogen bomb with its pulverised millions has nothing particularly terrible about it. Misery and tragedy are not to be measured by counting corpses.

Misery and tragedy. A true analysis of these words contains both the answer to the pessimist, and the explanation of why he becomes a pessimist. A materialist has no business to talk about misery or tragedy. For him, a living dog is certainly not to be accounted better than a dead lion; and, if he does not agree, it is clear that he is not applying the material test by one, as a value judgment, to which, as a materialist, he is not entitled.

Herein lies the fundamental inconsistency of the post-Christian. He is glad enough to assume materialism in order to banish Christian hope. But he must at least be true to the consistent materialist is not pessimism, but gaiety, at least as long as his digestion is

Kinnon, Brooklyn, 77 percent; James Reardon, Charlottetown, Charles Longworth, Charlottetown, and Martha Vickerson, (equal), 75 percent. Prizes of \$5.00 for Agriculture were presented by R. R. Fitzgerald, Esq., to Messrs. Bentley and Brehaut, (equal). Senator Haythorne's prize was awarded equally to Janet Ross, Catherine McLaren and Albert McLaren. —Island Guardian, June 6, 1950.

The Poet's Corner

DEED AND TITLE

This boy who owns the universe Carries pebbles in his purse, Never having yet been told, Silver's value, nor yet gold, And quite likely had he heard Would have doubted such a word.

For he owns sun and rain and dew And holds in fee a creek or two, And he also owns a hill, A red calf, a whippoorwill, Nor questions how he came to be Such a man of property.

And since such acceptance is Deed and title — earth is his! —Anobel Armour in The New York Herald-Tribune.

The Age Old Story

All thy works shall praise thee, O Lord; and thy saints shall bless thee. They shall speak of the glory of thy kingdom, and talk of thy power... Thy kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and thy dominion endureth throughout all generations.

SCOTTISH CUSTOM By ancient tradition, no Scottish housewife or household cook will let the kitchen fire die out on New Year's Eve.

NOTES BY THE WAY

Insistence of Bank of Canada officials that it is illegal for newspapers to publish photos of paper money may be strict law but it is absurd nevertheless. Let them try clipping a newspaper picture of a dollar note and offering it in a shop. It would be good for a laugh, but nothing else. —Brantford Expositor.

The future of the television industry depends on its success at finding out what people are willing to watch, and what parents are willing to have their children watch. And on the intelligence with which it makes use of this knowledge. It is not the public that needs to fear the influence of television. The television industry needs to fear the influence of the public. —Indianapolis Star.

We are thankful that we don't live in a big city when we hear of the traffic tie-ups. There's no doubt about it, small towns have their disadvantages. We could mention quite a few, especially at the height of the weekly rush to get the paper out. But at least when it's all over you can be home in five minutes. And without any coronary troubles either. —Wingham Advance-Times.

If Princess Margaret comes to Canada next summer let her skip the big cities. The blunt truth is that there is not a great deal of difference in the big cities in the British Commonwealth. Masses of people and masses of motor cars all trying to get somewhere, and pushing each other around in the process. The piles of brick and stone don't vary a great deal along the main business streets normally selected as parade routes. —Sudbury Star.

Rather than seeking deals which appear momentarily advantageous we should be searching for a resource policy calculated to promote the wise conservation of the natural wealth of the province. We want to attract capital to British Columbia, but we want to be sure it is coming for our benefit as well as its own. —Abbotsford News.

A British wise man about education, Mr. John Brophy, has given us a thought for the week: "I don't disbelieve in corporal punishment for children, but I don't think it is very good for teachers. What we need is a good impersonal machine that will whack the little blighters." All very well for state school systems which have lots of money and gadgets, but the ordinary purple-in-the-face parents who wishes to spare his own feelings but not the rod cannot afford mechanical whackers. —Peterborough Examiner.

The principal cause of fatalities on Ontario highways, according to the summary for October, was one that should be most easily avoided. According to a survey prepared for the Department of Highways it was "Loss of control." The figures go to show that most accidents might easily be prevented. They may not be accidents at all, but merely a case of cause and effect. Loss of control is the last thing that should happen to any driver. It simply means speed, speed too great for the prevailing conditions. The driver has permitted the car to attain a momentum that makes it impossible for him to direct or control it when the time

comes for him to do so. He is taking chances. —Woodstock Sentinel-Review.

The North Bay Nugget has a picture of two young-looking grandmothers who won top awards in the ladies' croquet sash contest at the Burks Fall Fair. Their sawing time of 35 seconds compared favourably with the times in the men's division. It is fine, this proof of women working together in harmony. Or is it just once they reach granny's age? —Ottawa Journal.

Nature has provided that the dark meat of the turkey is less than the white meat by a proportion of about 1 to 5. But nature did not provide that persons who prefer dark meat are necessarily less than those who prefer white meat by the same proportion. It may well be that those who prefer dark meat are as much as 50 per cent of the whole or even more. In such case the carver faces a serious problem. —Naniamo Free Press.

Science has announced a bit out of season, that it has made another discovery mosquitoes will regret. This new concoction, as yet unavailable to the public, is a repellent rather than an insecticide. The distinctive smell much to be desired. A dead mosquito is ever so much better than one that merely has been fended off for three or four hours. But following this through, a repelled mosquito is better than the one that bites you. The new repellent has its own kind of importance. —Windsor Star.

BIG HOG MARKET

EDMONTON (CP) — Alberta, Canada's second largest hog-producing province, marketed 1,015,000 hogs in the first nine months of 1954. The province reported a marketing increase of 38,000 head while Ontario, leading producer, had a decrease of 107,000.

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CANADIAN GOVERNMENT OVERSEAS AWARDS

Fourth Series

The Government of Canada will again use part of the blocked balances standing to its credit in France and the Netherlands to provide overseas fellowships and scholarships in those countries for Canadian scholars. Between twenty-five and thirty awards are planned in 1955.

FELLOWSHIPS

\$4,000 for twelve months, are intended for advanced study in the arts, humanities, social sciences, sciences and professions. Candidates must be over 30 years of age, and must already have attained distinction in their fields. No formal academic course need be followed, but applicants must submit a definite plan of study.

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