

Press Censorship On The Rise

The number of countries where news is censored or controlled at its source has risen steadily in the years following World War II to the point where press censorship is now more rampant than it was in 1938.

The delicate problem of press freedom and censorship is extensively reviewed in the Courier, the illustrated monthly magazine of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, by Dr. Salvador P. Lopez, chief of the Philippines delegation to the United Nations.

"The basic human right to freedom of opinion and expression has become, in many parts of the world, a casualty," states Dr. Lopez. "This is true in the authoritarian states, but even in other countries, this right is constantly menaced by the tendency to sacrifice freedom in the ostensible interest of defending freedom."

Elsewhere in the Courier, articles discuss the mechanics of newsgathering, the responsibility of the professional journalist, inequalities in the world's access to news (Europe, with 16.3 per cent of the world's population has 42.5 per cent of its newspaper circulation; Asia, with 52.8 of the population has 21.4 per cent of the circulation), and a new service launched by French scientists to help reporters check the accuracy of science stories.

The Flora MacDonald Of Fact

A good deal of legend has gathered around the name of Flora MacDonald, the heroine who accompanied Bonnie Prince Charlie during much of his wanderings in the Highlands disguised as the Irish spinning-maid, "Betty Burke".

Reporting a paper delivered by the Rev. Donald MacKinnon before the Scottish Genealogy Society, the Scotsman reveals that Flora MacDonald was not a mere peasant girl. In her blood flowed the aristocratic strain of the regal House of the Isles, founded by Somerled.

There was no love affair between Flora and Prince Charles during their brief association. Nor was her motive in helping the fugitive political — it was humanitarian. After her adventure she did not retire into obscurity, but married Allan Macdonald, younger of Kingsburgh, and went with him to North Carolina soon after their meeting with Dr. Johnson and Boswell in 1773.

After many adventures they returned to Skye and Flora, who died in 1790, was buried at Kilmuir. As her shroud she wore one of the sheets in which the Prince had slept at Kingsburgh.

It may be added that Flora had a direct connection with Nova Scotia, having spent a winter at Annapolis Royal, a fact which the late Angus L. Macdonald commemorated by unveiling a monument a year or so before his death.

Common Aims

One of the difficulties experienced by Western diplomats in their dealings with Russian officials is the tendency of the latter to see in friendly overtures some motive or purpose which does not in fact exist. A case in point is the Russian reaction to a speech delivered by Sir Winston Churchill

at a meeting of a Conservative Party group. In the course of his speech the Prime Minister stated that he saw no reason why British-Russian relations should not improve in the near future; at least that was the gist of his remarks.

No sooner had the speech been reported in Moscow than Tass, the official news agency, circulated a rumour to the effect that Sir Winston's conciliatory words indicated increasing disagreement between Britain and the United States in matters of foreign policy.

All this is one more evidence of the hope of Communist leaders that in due time Britain and the United States will come to such violent disagreement on political questions and answers that there will be no common will and strength with which to resist aggression. It is the old strategy of "divide and conquer" which has been used more than once in the past to the advantage of an aggressor and to the woe of his intended victims.

The Vigorous Dandelion

See the pretty dandelions, blooming everywhere. Is there a finer yellow to be seen anywhere around? The answer, though not exactly responsive, in the opinion of the New York Times, is that the dandelion is a pest, a nuisance, an interloper and several other things, all preceded by adjectives.

People who like their lawns don't like dandelions, though the fact remains that the dandelion flower, viewed dispassionately, is as pretty as, say a calendula or an aster. Furthermore, the dandelion is good to eat, if you like cooked greens.

The thing about the dandelion is that it has so many offspring. How can so flimsy a little puff of down and so minute a seed possess such vitality? Let one beautiful dandelion go to seed at the far corner of your lawn today, and tomorrow you have dandelion all over the place.

The chicory you grow in your garden for a salad green isn't that profligate, and chicory is a cousin of the dandelion. Several other salad greens are of the same family, and they don't take over the place even if you let them go to seed. You have to plant them and cultivate them and coddle them.

But not the dandelion. It will grow in a crack in a cement sidewalk. It will grow on an ash heap. Neither flood nor drought seems to discourage it. The lawnmower merely provokes it to greater effort.

You fight dandelions all week-end, and late Monday afternoon there they are, pert as all get out, in full and gorgeous bloom, pretty as can be, thriving as only dandelions can thrive in the face of adversity.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Viscountess Nancy Witcher Astor, wife of Viscount Waldorf Astor of Cliveden, first woman to sit in the British House of Commons, was born in Virginia this date 1879. She always has shown a keen interest in temperance movements and political affairs. In 1923 she published "My Two Countries".

Profits on each dollar of sales in Canadian manufacturing industry averaged 5.2 cents, according to figures prepared by the Canadian Manufacturers' Association. This was 0.2 cents better than 1952's profits but 0.6 cents less than the 1951 figure. The figures are "after taxes". More than half the profit was retained for development and 2.3 cents paid out in dividends.

President Eisenhower has ordered army personnel not to testify before the McCarthy Senate sub-committee about the role of White House and other Government officials in the conflict between the Army and the Committee. The hearings, consequently, are at a standstill but there may well be a test of strength between the executive and legislative branches.



Sturdy Crop This Year

PUBLIC FORUM

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

THIS SO-CALLED PLEBISCITE

Sir,—We note without much surprise that the Marketing Board is going to disallow any farmer in the Province to vote on the coming plebiscite unless he belongs to the Potato Marketing Board, which is brought about by paying in money and securing a grower's licence. In other words only those who are in favor of a Marketing Board are going to be allowed to vote or have any say in it.

Some growers have been almost ruined because of the drastic rulings of the Marketing Board. They're even suing for damages in the courts. Others have stopped growing potatoes altogether. They refuse to be slaves to this marketing scheme with all its nostrums.

They don't fancy being put into a cage and chirruped at through the wires by a few men who obviously know so much that there is nothing left for anyone else to know.

Most growers prefer to be free men, free to sell when they like to whom they like and take what they can get for them. But these growers are not going to be allowed to vote. Only those who favor it are going to be allowed to say.

The idea of selling potatoes through a Marketing Board was as sound asleep as a hibernating bear until Hon. Jimmy Gardiner came down here on a visit peculiar to politicians. Jimmy had just written out a cheque for sixty-five million dollars to the wheat growing voters of his own constituency, which worked out according to plan in the next election.

When faced with the request, knowing that many farmers are always standing with their mouths wide open ready to swallow any new nostrum that comes along, grower just smiled and told these Board and your troubles will be over. And these farmers swallowed the dope, bait, hook, line, sinker and all, and Jimmy Gardiner went back to Ottawa wearing the biggest smile he ever wore in his long political career, and these farmers have been dumping their potatoes along the beaches ever since.

We are all citizens of this Province and the growing and marketing of potatoes concerns us all, whether we pay in to a Marketing Board scheme or not, so let us all have a chance for a say in this important question.

I am, Sir, etc. LOUIS W. PEARSON

The Age Old Story

And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth. So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them. And God saw every thing that he had made, and behold, it was very good.

TIMMINS, Ont. (CP)—An 11-man committee was elected here Monday to fight the distribution of salacious literature in this district. The committee will seek guidance from federal authorities on classification of salacious literature.

The Poet's Corner

In blows the loitering air of spring. Scarcely a-blow, a-blow, a lively gas. It makes the secret life-cells ring And quicken, while the blood-waves pass. Floss nothingness, we feel it cling. Resile,—silent as space, unseen as glass. Unhindered softer than the weakest thing. Such air can enter nostrils, sudden as light. The eye, fair words the ear, or flight. The nerve-knot, or your unexpected love. My startled heart. Down from above. Or from the south, or flowered west. Or from the oceaned east, or here Blown first by spring, this air possessed. By spring is Ah! so lithe this year. The curtain flies before this wonder. Talk fast. Speak swift before the heart's asunder. —Gene Derwood.

Locating Hearing

(Edinburgh Scotsman) Echo-sounding recordings, made by a passenger vessel between Aberdeen and Lerwick, are to be broadcast regularly on the drifter waveband to help fishermen to locate herring shoals. During the past few years the SS St. Clair, owned by the North of Scotland, Orkney and Shetland Shipping Co. Ltd., has at the request of the scientists of the Scottish Home Department Marine Laboratory, been making echo-sounding recordings whilst on passage across Aberdeen and Lerwick.

Information obtained about herring shoals has been passed on by the captain to interested fishermen, and has proved to be of material assistance to them. The Herring Industry Board considered that even greater benefit would be derived from these regular echo-soundings if information about the size and location of shoals could be transmitted to the fishermen immediately it became available. So they asked the shipping company whether they would allow the board to have a suitable radio telephone installed aboard the St. Clair.

REVENGE AVENGED

OTTAWA, (CP)—A Montreal man, Joseph Egoshen, was sentenced to five years in Kingston penitentiary Monday for burning a dairy barn at Burrill's Rapids industrial farm April 29, causing \$20,000 damage. Egoshen told the court he burned the building for revenge because he had been "unjustly" sentenced to serve six months on a vagrancy count.

Old Charlottetown and P. E. I. BURNING THE REGISTER

The following excerpts from the P. E. Island Register of March 19, 1828, record the aftermath of election proceedings at the Court House in Charlottetown, which the editor of The Register (James Douglas Haszard) had criticized in a previous issue as being of a very rowdy nature:

"Having crossed the ice from Chiny Point (where the election trials were held) in a carriage drawn by four horses, the successful candidate (Mr. Nelson) was met by a crowd of people, several of them in one horse vehicles, assembled to grace his triumph. At last, having paraded through all the principal streets, the whole mass made a halt in front of our office; and while we expected nothing else than three cheers for 'The Liberty of the Press', we were doomed to witness a very different ceremony, namely, the burning of the Register of last week, as a holocaust to the wounded feelings and offended dignity of the mob, of whose many-headed majesty we had failed to speak in terms sufficiently respectful in our account of the scenes which characterized the three first days of the election.

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NOTES BY THE WAY

And then there's the man who complains that his wife has the last word even at Scrabble.—Hamilton Spectator. —When we realize how difficult it is to keep neighborhood affairs sweet, because of line fences, ditches and other irritating local problems, we get an inkling of what goes on in United Nations. —Farmer's Advocate.

A southern woman was shot by her husband, whose only explanation was that he didn't feel well. It's getting to be that people think any kind of ailment can be cured by taking shots.—Hamilton Spectator. —Should the Six Nations Indians be looking for a name to give the Governor General, Mr. Massey, when they adopt him into the tribes on June 30, they might consider something that translates as Big Chief Spellbinder, for he's a mighty man in a pow-wow.—Brantford Expositor.

A blazer, that's the thing. It seems all organizations are going in for the wearing of blazers, with crests. Latest proposal is for members of city council to wear them when attending civic functions or conventions. The city crest would be prominently displayed.—North Bay Nugget. —It takes an American sense of what is prosperity to call the current dip in business a recession.

The American Telephone and Telegraph Co. reflects the "pinch" by an announcement it installed "only" 400,000 new telephones in the first three months of this year. In the same period last year it put in a little over 100,000 phones more. By contrast all Mexico has only 312,000 phones in service, and Canada has 3,350,000.—Philadelphia Bulletin.

A Tennessee farmer, tired of watching people toss whisky bottles and beer cans on his property, where cattle cut their feet on glass, retaliated by gathering about 250 of the bottles, and smashing them a quarter mile strip of the road. "The dullest sight you ever saw," remarked the patrolman who charged the farmer with malicious mischief.—Atlanta Constitution.

With increasing interest nations are looking to the seas around them to supply them with many of the necessities and luxuries of life. And there is evidence that marine harvests may prove as profitable to the fishermen of the future as land crops have been to the farmer. It has been predicted that seaweed may provide many a lonely outpost of Scotland with a major industry. New experiments over there have been undertaken to find new uses for marine vegetation.

Already it has proved its worth as a vegetable, as a jelly, as cattle fodder and fertilizer, has even been made into bread and has been employed in the production of iodine and potassium. From seaweeds already it may venture to assert, that there is very little ground for alarm on that account. The electioneering excitement having now subsided, people have resumed their usual way of life, the town enjoys the most perfect tranquillity, and our most noisy politicians have returned to their anvils, lassis and lapboards again.

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