

THE GUARDIAN

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"The Strongest Memory is Weaker Than the Weakest Ink"

CHARLOTTETOWN, TUESDAY, MAY 22, 1951

Irrelevant Questions

The 1951 census form contains some twenty-nine questions which must be answered by all citizens. In the opinion of the Winnipeg Free Press, their content "strongly suggests that there has been inadequate resistance to the pressure always exerted upon the Bureau of Statistics for information which is neither necessary nor proper, except to the minds of over-zealous bureaucrats."

Question 20 asks, "What did this person do mostly during the week ending June 2, 1951?" Insofar as the information is necessary at all, why can it not be obtained through the regular employment services? Question 21 is even more objectionable: "In addition, did this person do any work for pay or profit?" Question 22 continues in the same vein: "How many hours did this person work?" These are succeeded by a cross-examination addressed to "those with a job but not at work."

The census taker is duly warned on the census form that his report is confidential and cannot be used for purposes of taxation, investigation or regulation of any kind. This is the law of the land. Citizens are nevertheless asked to disclose the number of weeks worked for wages and salary during the 12 months prior to June 1951 and their approximate wage and salary earnings over that period. This is both unnecessary and objectionable.

"It should be borne in mind," says the Free Press, "that the last census cost the country \$4,000,000. The population is up about 20 per cent but the cost of this census will exceed \$9,000,000. The price of increased governmental curiosity would indeed come a lot higher but for the fact that new methods and the use of electronic statistical machines are expected to effect important savings all along the line. These questions then cost a great deal of money which in one form or another is extracted from the citizens who answer them."

"Some queries as noted are of obvious necessity. Others yield a mass of information which on past experience disappears into vast reams of paper never again to see the light of day. The 1951 census sheet appears to be overloaded with questions which are at best dubious and at worst an unwarranted invasion of private affairs and an indefensible waste of public money."

Hit And Run

A fine of ten dollars was reported to have been imposed in a hit and run case last week, a penalty which appears totally inadequate for this type of offence. There must, presumably, have been circumstances which provided an excuse for this driver not stopping at the scene of an accident and offering assistance and identifying himself.

The hit and run driver is not an attractive creature. Either through panic or callous selfishness he departs from the scene of an accident leaving his victim perhaps to suffer for want of early attention or to be unable to claim compensation from the unknown fugitive for damage to person or property.

When identified, the hit and run coward should be punished to the full extent of the law.

Mr. Sinclair's Warning

Mr. James Sinclair, parliamentary assistant to the Minister of Finance, warned an audience in Ontario recently that the state could defeat its own ends if it gave too much security, and made the citizens feel the world owes them a living. "Contributory schemes are the answer," he declared, "for then people realize they aren't receiving money from some bottomless pit in Ottawa."

But contributory schemes are only the answer when government itself does everything in its power to maintain the purchasing value of the dollar. Otherwise, the individual is only paying dollars into a fund that will later be paid back with dollars worth eighty, or fifty cents or less in terms of what they can buy. This lesson should have been bitterly learned, for money loaned to government has been paid back now with bills worth a little

more than half what they were worth ten years before.

"Mr. Sinclair," says the Hamilton Spectator, "is not the first public man to voice his alarm over the way people are looking to the government for assistance. But repentance is a little late. It is on cruelly deceptive promises of 'social security' — which by itself means less than nothing — that politicians have been gaining and holding power. With lavish and unauthorized outlays of cash, they have been playing an impossible game of trying to appease every one by stealing from the left pocket to put into the right pocket. Whatever its motives, nothing has contributed more to inflation. Public spending is the greatest of all stimulants to high prices; for that reason indeed it was initially elaborated in the depression years to force prices up."

EDITORIAL NOTES

Proposals for some fiscal reward for Canadian troops serving in Korea recall the fact that there is such higher pay for service in the United States but not for overseas.

This is Highway and Traffic Safety Week as well as the week of the 24th of May. It is to be hoped that the safety campaign at least offsets the effect of holiday driving.

The 23rd is Empire Day and observed with patriotic exercises in the schools; the 24th, Victoria Day, is more generally celebrated far from the madding crowds.

Broken glass has become almost a common sight on some of our streets. It is difficult to understand the mentality of those who break glass where it becomes a source of danger but the city should take prompt steps to remove it.

Canadians in Korea are reported to have "guzzled" beer sent from this country. They may, perhaps, have indulged, consumed, drunk, savoured, quaffed, sipped, imbibed, swigged or toasted one another in it, but surely not guzzled.

The first baronet was created this date, 1611 by James I professedly to support the English and Scottish colonization of Ulster. Each new baronet was to pay the King £1,080. Similar Irish and Scottish orders were instituted in 1619 and 1625, the latter being the so-called baronets of Nova Scotia. After union, appointments were as baronets of the United Kingdom.

Detroit lawyers have been demonstrating to their Windsor brethren a pre-trial procedure intended to speed up the hearing of court cases by both parties to a suit appearing before a judge to settle difficulties and lay out the course of the trial, and perhaps to show that a trial is unnecessary. The members of neither bar seem to have noted that it is similar to the summons for directions in use in the Old Country since 1897.

In some parts of the Dominion there is a mix-up regarding the observance of Victoria Day. This is due to an unauthorized announcement from Ottawa that public holidays would be observed on the Monday nearest the previously fixed date. No amendment to the law to this effect was passed, and no Order-in-Council is in existence authorizing the change. Thursday is therefore the statutory holiday notwithstanding that not a few firms in Montreal and elsewhere will close down for that purpose on Monday 28th.

Post-Easter entertainment is the order of the day at Ottawa. Invitations went out today for the first official reception at Prime Minister St. Laurent's new official residence at 24 Sussex street. The Prime Minister and Mrs. St. Laurent are entertaining members of the Commons, the Senate and the Parliamentary Press Gallery May 22, 23 and 24. Large though their new home is, they will have to hold the reception in three stages to accommodate all the guests.

Considerable discussion is taking place between London and Washington relative to military and naval commands under the U. N. It was unanimously agreed that Marshall Dwight Eisenhower should be in supreme military control, but difference of opinion has arisen over the proposal that American admirals should command the area fleets in the Mediterranean where Britain's interests are paramount, and also in the Atlantic. It was then suggested that as a quick pro quo, the Atlantic Command should be bestowed on a British officer, but here again Washington claimed that U. S. Admiral B. Fichteler was entitled as a matter of prestige to that supreme command. London has indicated that it is a little too much of a good thing that the three principal commands should be hogged by U. S. A., and it is now announced that Washington may reconsider its position.



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.

PEN PALS WANTED

Sir,—Would you please publish this request for pen friends? We are two girls aged approximately 23 who wish to correspond with members of either sex of that age. Our general interests are reading, sketching, dancing, ice skating and swimming. We are, Sir, etc., (Misses) DAPHNE AHEARN AND JEAN WALKER. Box M951 G.P.O. Perth, West Australia

Old Charlottetown

(And F. E. L.) MULTUM IN PARVO

The following are among the goods offered for sale "on the most reasonable terms" by D. Wilson, Charlottetown, in an advertisement appearing in the Prince Edward Island Register of January 5, 1830:

Woolens and Bombazetts, Norwich Crapes, Thread Laces, Scotch Home-spuns, Waistcoating, Quilts, Shawls, Lamb's wool Stockings, Fustians, Diapers, Artificial Flowers, Lapping Paper, Scotch Bonnets, Beaver Hats, Furniture, Tin-ware, Confectionery, Crockery-ware, Stationery, Demerara Rum, Brandy, Molasses, Sugar, Boston Fig Tobacco, Havana Segars, Snuff, Mould Candles, Pepper and Allspice, Poland Starch, Mustard, Spanish Indigo, shelled Almonds, Ginger, Souchong and Hyson Tea, Coffee, Chocolate, Cloves, Nutmegs, Annapolis Cheese, Apples, Scotch and Windsor Soap, Liver-pool Salt, Powder and Shot, Linseed Oil, Paints, Window Glass, Copperas, Sulphur, Epsom Salts, Isinglass, Blackening, American Pitch and Tar, Rice, Cordage, Wool Cards, Sole and Neat's Leather, Weavers' Reeds, Brushes, Combs, Tea Trays, Herring Twine, Glue, Sheet Iron, German and blistered Steel, Cart Brushes, Plough Shares, Kettles, Bake Ovens, Pots, Knives, Forks, etc. Wilkie's Ploughs, full mounted, Walking Sticks, Gigs or Sleigh Whips, etc. "with a great variety of other Goods suitable to the Season, to be disposed of for cash only. The highest price given for Furs in season."

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The Poet's Corner THE BAREFOOT BOY Oh for boyhood's painless play, Sleep that wakes in laughing day, Health that mocks the doctor's rules, Knowledge never learned of schools, Of the wild bee's morning chase, Of the wild-flower's time and place, Flight of fowl and habitude Of the tenants of the wood; How the tortoise bears his shell, How the woodchuck digs his cell, And the ground-mole sinks his well; How the robin feeds her young, How the oriole's nest is hung. —John Greenleaf Whittier.

The Age-Old Story (Ottawa Citizen) Especially to Canadians of Scottish blood, Cape Breton's Gaelic Mod offers even more attraction than usual this summer. Its pageantry has been planned to honor the MacLeod migrations that linked Scotland, Canada, and the Antipodes. As a highlight of the celebrations, the voyage of the barque Margaret to Australia a hundred years ago will be dramatically commemorated when a three-masted vessel sails out of harbor of St. Ann's. The original ship's company soon moved to New Zealand, where their descend-

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REMINGTON RAND OPENS COMPLETE NEW BUSINESS EQUIPMENT CENTER AT 104 KENT STREET Charlottetown ACCOUNTING MACHINES ADDING MACHINES PRINTING CALCULATORS PUNCHED-CARD METHODS RIBBONS, CARBONS ELECTRIC TYPEWRITERS NOISELESS TYPEWRITERS SUPER-RITER TYPEWRITERS PORTABLE TYPEWRITERS DUPLICATOR SUPPLIES RECORD PHOTOGRAPHY SAFE-FILES, SAFE-CABINETS VERTICAL FILING EQUIPMENT VISIBLE SYSTEMS OFFICE FURNITURE

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Notes By The Way

Bricklayers and plasterers are paid \$3.50 an hour in some American cities. But, then, look at the rainy days when they can do little else but drive around in their long, black Cadillacs.—(Hamilton Spectator).

A Soviet general today has six uniforms heavy with gold braid, colored velvet, enamel, polished leather and cloth of gold. (An officer in the plutocratic United States is limited to two uniforms, one dress, one field). In contrast to a democratic world in which generals make a point of affecting worn battle jackets, berets, old boots and an unberibboned chest, the Russian officer is the peacock of the world.—(United Nations World).

It is either a feast or a famine when it comes to the question of moisture in the Prairie Provinces. This Spring they have an abundance. In some parts there is so much that farmers are doing some worrying as to whether they

ants live on rich lands granted by the Crown in the Waipu district. The Waipu Nova Scotians have kept in touch with the people of Pictou and St. Ann's, and this relationship is perhaps unique in the history of Canada, a colonized country itself rather than the mother of colonies.

The saga of the Normanites, followers of the Rev. Norman MacLeod, is one of romantic adventure and rugged pioneering in search of a better living than old Scotland then afforded. These people first settled in Pictou County and later built The Ark for a voyage to Ohio. But when a storm drove their ship into the harbor of St. Ann's, they believed God had guided them to a land where the hills reminded them of home. After 30 years, glowing reports of Australia led some to sail away in six small vessels that they built between 1851 and 1859. At Waipu, the Pioneers' Monument is decorated with a representation of one of these ships on each of its six sides. A granite duplicate will be erected at St. Ann's during the Gaelic Mod ceremonies from August 9 to 12 this year. Flora MacLeod of MacLeod, chief of her clan, will come from Scotland, repeating her visit of 1947. Other distinguished guests who have been invited include Prime Minister St. Laurent, and representatives of several Provinces and of New Zealand. With the bagpipes skirling, it will be a lively and colorful occasion.

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