

THE GUARDIAN

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CHARLOTTETOWN, MONDAY, DEC. 31, 1951

A Year Of Challenge

To those to whom peace and quiet and contentment are prime aims 1951 was a sore disappointment. In place of security there was everywhere a sense of instability. Few institutions or ideas went altogether unchallenged and yet disaster has not fallen.

The effect has on the whole been stimulating. Nations have been keyed up to military preparedness and have achieved a remarkably high degree of co-ordination. At the same time they have shown a social awareness both for their own people and for distant populations which would have astonished the world of only a few years ago.

Christianity has been jolted out of complacency and the spirit of churchmen today is probably more akin to that of apostolic times than it has for many a century.

The two great dangers which have brought this response are the pressure of a rapidly increasing world population on the available food supply and the rise of Russian imperialism. The first presents problems which can only be solved, as they are being solved, by the most complete teamwork on the part of peoples everywhere. The second represents a remarkable anachronism. Stalin belongs to the age of Jenghiz Khan and threatens to plunge the world into a new age of despotism and savagery. He will fail because the world has already awakened to its danger and has united in defence of freedom and civilization.

This country has kept pace in developing its resources, in seeking the welfare of our own people and of mankind, and also in standing shoulder to shoulder with the United Nations to preserve the civilization so painfully built up.

The coming year will also hold its challenges and opportunities. If it fails to live up to all our expectations, it may by the same token prove a turning point in world history. No country has reason to face it with more confidence than Canada. In this Province we would be ungrateful indeed if we did not count our blessings on this occasion, and plan hopefully for the future.

We take pleasure in extending to all our readers, at home and abroad, our very best wishes for a happy and prosperous New Year.

Japanese Trade

It is surely a curious turn of fortune's wheel to find Japan, six years after World War Two, ranking as Canada's fourth largest foreign market. For the first nine months of this year Japan bought from us \$51,051,939 worth of wheat, pulp, asbestos, barley, etc. (over three times as much as in the same period last year). In turn, we bought from them fruits, tea, fish, textiles, lead, light bulbs, toys, jewelry, etc., amounting to \$9,150,000 or less than a fifth as much.

Canadians have long feared the products of cheap Japanese labor underselling us. Mr. Katsushiro Narita, that country's representative at Ottawa, says that Canada is selling Japan vital raw materials and importing from her various kinds of manufactured goods which "do not compete with the fundamental manufacturing industries of Canada." Exploitation of cheap labor, he argues, is no longer possible. Japan has the 48-hour week, holidays guaranteed, and labor laws to protect women and minors.

Korean War Figures

Impressive figures have been compiled at Washington to show what the Korean war has involved in human effort. The United States has suffered casualties, in killed, wounded and missing of about 100,000 men; the other United Nations forces, 6,000; the South Koreans, 150,000; the Communists, by rough reckoning, 1,500,000, and the civilian population of Korea 475,000. These are staggering figures in a war which has never brought the full power of either side into play.

The numbers of men engaged in Korea also are large. The United States has 450,000 men in the field, an army far larger than those which in times past have often conquered a large part of Europe and Asia; the other United Nations, 45,000; South Korea, 250,000; North Korea, 250,000; and China 550,000.

So far the United States has spent about \$10 billions in Korea, a necessary expenditure which may turn out, by the success of collective security, to be the cheapest investment for peace that the nation has ever made but nevertheless sheer economic waste, for which Communism is solely responsible. The expenditures of the enemy doubtless are much lower in terms of money but, in relation to the resources of China and North Korea, are extremely heavy and quite mad when these countries need all their energies to re-build their own economies after many years of internal and foreign war.

Another and perhaps more understandable measurement of the Korean war is the gigantic physical process involved. For example, the United States has moved 12 million tons of supplies to the battlefield, besides 6.5 million tons of gasoline and oil.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Hogmanay is probably unfamiliar to most of us but as New Year's eve it will be celebrated with enthusiasm or thoughtfulness according to individual disposition.

According to the official returns, the outgoing year was a banner one for both field crops and dairy produce so far as prices go, though there was a reduction on quantity of both grain and potatoes, which means farmers will be in the market for feeds next year.

Island poultrymen feel almost in a state of siege with Newcastle disease threatening the continent but success in keeping this Province free of the scourge will mean a very strong demand indeed for our breeding stock.

The official receptions tomorrow will no doubt be thronged but an equally charming and perhaps even longer established custom, that of gentlemen paying their respects to the fair sex, is not likely to be altogether neglected either.

Probably the outstanding development in this year of progress for the Island is the beginning of a change over of fishing methods to the use of the dragger. It is comparable to the mechanization of agriculture but shows signs of being considerably more rapid.

The Progressive Conservatives at Ottawa discontinued their opposition to the Government's price-fixing abolition bill on Friday, allowing it to pass third reading and be sent to the Senate. This was accomplished without the necessity of the Government resorting to closure.

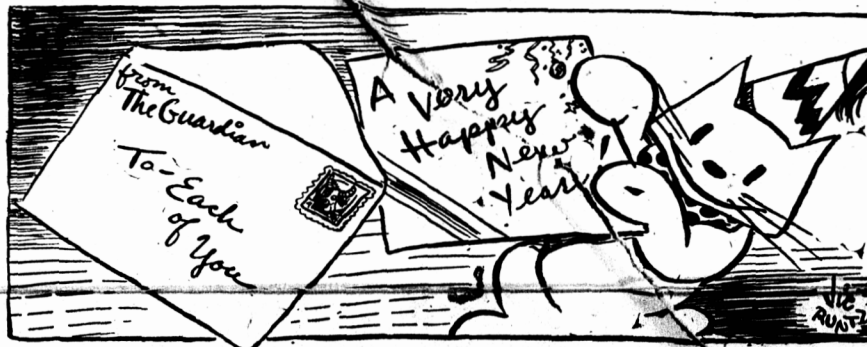
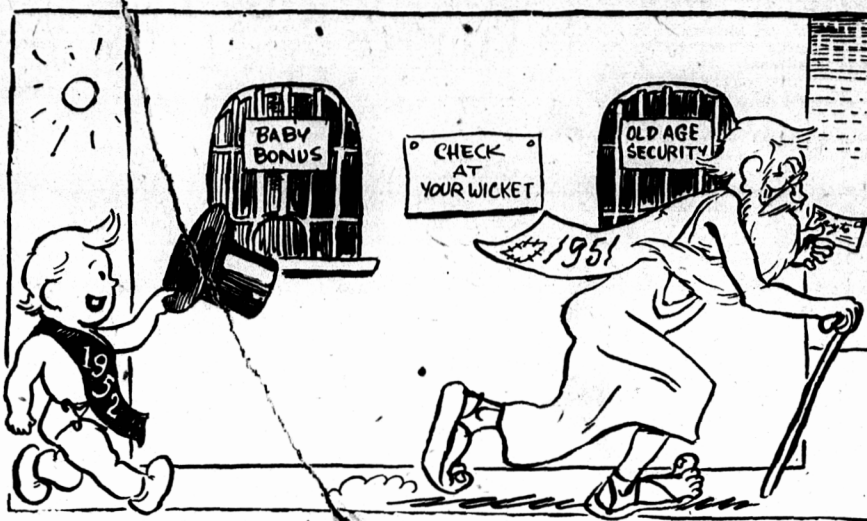
Leon Gambetta, French statesman, died this date 1882. He opposed Louis Napoleon, who nevertheless became emperor as Napoleon III. The empire fell in 1870 and Gambetta fought strongly for the republic, but finding that extreme measures merely strengthened monarchical sentiment, he invented that "opportunism" by which French governments have lived ever since.

A worthwhile Santa find. Children playing near the ruins of an old Austrian castle on Christmas morning, found a lump of metal weighing more than two pounds which local authorities say is pure gold. The children found the gold near Taxenbach Castle, about 30 miles south of Salzburg. Local experts suggested it might be part of the treasures of the castle which was destroyed during the Peasants' War in the 16th century.

Congratulations are being extended to Mr. J. M. Robinson, O.B.E., manager of the Bank of Nova Scotia in the city on his promotion to be Assistant Supervisor for the Bank's branch in Cuba. For the short time he has been here, Mr. Robinson has been active in the community and proved himself to be a first-class adviser in matters financial to the Bank's patrons, as well as to community projects. He returns to the West Indies, with the commercial and banking business of which he is thoroughly familiar, having occupied important positions there in the past.

The children's tribute. Some 75 lantern-carrying youngsters made the traditional Christmas Eve pilgrimage to the grave of Clement Clarke Moore in Manhattan's Trinity cemetery. Moore, who wrote "A Visit From St. Nicholas" while a professor of Greek and Hebrew literature at the General Theological Seminary, New York, died in 1863. The children also visited the grave of Alfred Tennyson Dickens, whose father, Charles Dickens, wrote "A Christmas Carol." The younger Dickens died in New York in 1912 while on a visit from England. At both graves the children placed wreaths, saying prayers, for children everywhere—and for peace.

The New Year In Our Time



Old Charlottetown

(And P. E. I.)

THE CAPES ROUTE

"While the Capes Route is by all acknowledged to be the best—in fact the only—route for our winter mails, it is not without its drawbacks. Lolly, thin ice, and too much open water render crossing difficult and occasion delays, such as we are now experiencing of eleven days without a foreign mail. This difficulty may we think be entirely overcome by two small, staunch steamers. These steamers could be 'docked' in the hoard ice on either side, and could be used as required to take mails and passengers from the board ice to the heavy ice of the Straits, over which it is comparatively easy to cross with the light boats now in use. Even one such steamer would greatly facilitate crossing. "Another difficulty is that of getting to and from the Straits. This difficulty may be overcome by a short line of railway on each side, one to connect with the P. E. Island Railway and the other with the Intercolonial. We note that our representatives in the Commons are agitating for these railways, and we hope they will continue to agitate until they are successful." —The Examiner, April 8, 1878

Hail! The Welfare State!

(The Rural Scene) "All these will I give thee, if thou wilt fall down and worship me."—Satan. It was the short-sighted, self-centred policies of governments that led the world into the great depression. At that time distress among the people was so wide-spread and the need for relief so great, that only central governments with the credit of whole nations at their disposal could cope with it. This gave governments the opportunity to pose as public benefactors, making gifts to the people; and it became the fashion for political candidates to bid for votes by promising more generous gifts than their opponents. In one country that prides itself on being a model of self-government, a few astute politicians conceived the idea of putting all the blame for the depression on big business and the free enterprise system; and of painting the government as the only all-wise and benevolent instrument that could remove all abuses, cure all economic ills and restore prosperity to the nation. It would do this by a more equitable distribution of the nation's wealth. Being in power at the time, these gentlemen were able to use all the machinery of government to put their story across; and it was accepted by the people with considerable acclaim. Their success tempted the same type of politicians in other countries to adopt similar tactics, and political parties began to appear for support by pledging themselves to various schemes for redistributing the nation's wealth. That was the beginning of the welfare state. At first it promised only to take care of the needy—the forgotten man. But as its political possibilities revealed themselves the idea grew and flourished, covering more and more people with promises of aid and greater benefits until today almost the only question the voter is asked to decide at election time is which party will give him the most out of the public treasury or out of other people's pockets. Here are some of the things being promised the electors by the proponents of the welfare state: Larger family allowances, larger old-age pensions, and at an earlier age, and greater benefits hospital care, full employment, more generous unemployment insurance, job security, the five-day week, union security, holidays with pay, retiring allowances, closed shop, check-off, guaranteed farm prices, monopoly marketing of farm pro-

The Age-Old Story

Be thou exalted, Lord, in thine own strength: so will we sing and praise thy power.

ducts, cheap control of the producers, subsidised by the government, control of prices in the consumers' interests, low-cost housing at public expense. In addition to all this we are promised lower taxation. It will be noted that the larger benefits in this list are not for the most needy, but* for the strongest pressure groups—organized labor and organized farmers. The forgotten man is still largely forgotten.

These are the things the welfare state offers us. What does it ask in return? It asks one thing and one thing only—obedience, implicit obedience, acknowledging the state's authority and submitting to its will. Is that too big a price to pay for these promised benefits? Think it over. What does it involve? For the farmer it involves operating his farm as the government or some appointed board directs, increasing or reducing his acreage as he is told, growing the crops he is told to grow, selling them as, when and where he is told to sell them and at prices those in authority decide to accept on his behalf. Failure to do as he is directed in any of these matters would make him a law-breaker and subject to whatever penalties the law provides. For the wage-earner it means that he must join the union the government names as his bargaining agent, and be subject to the rules and the wishes of that union, which will have power to throw him out of its ranks and out of his job at the whim of the union boss. It means that his right to work at his trade will depend on the good will of the union officials and that there will be no appeal from their decisions. For the consuming public it means that the supply of food, clothing, fuel and all other necessities will no longer be regulated by the needs of the people, but by the uninformed guesses of some clerk or board that can't possibly be in a position to estimate the quantities or the varieties required. To the employer it means that he will have to find the money to pay for all the wage increases, shorter hours and other benefits that politicians promise to the workers, but he will have no authority to hire the men he wants to hire those he finds unsatisfactory. To all those who save their money and put it into savings banks, government bonds, life insurance policies, annuities, or who hide it where they think it will be safe, it means continued inflation, which has already reduced the value of their savings by half. Make no mistake about it, these welfare programs, so lightly offered by aspiring politicians, can't be carried out without further inflating the currency. They all involve putting more money into the hands of the people without any corresponding increase in the quantity of goods on which it can be spent. That is inflation—the thing that saps the value of the people's savings and while leaving the same symbols of wealth in their hands. The welfare state undertook to provide the people of Britain with shorter hours, higher wages, social security, and all the other benefits a state can promise its people; but it did not induce them to work harder producing more of the things they wanted. It thought to provide those things by despoiling the rich and taxing away the reserves and the profits of industry, which should have gone to extending industrial plants and modernizing equipment. But it only succeeded in driving the country to the verge of bankruptcy. The same thing could happen here.

The Poet's Corner

A SONG FOR THE NEW YEAR

What graven words shall mark as mine This milestone of a year? What prayer shall be the worthy sign Of all I hope and fear? Not greed for gold— I'm growing old; Burdens I dare no more uphold; Nor deem I meet for weary feet The dust and struggle of the street.

Then shall I wish for utter peace? For light with calm around? For all the stir of life to cease In apathy profound? Ah! no, too long I've warred with wrong, I've loved the clash of battle-song, For me to drone in ease alone Were heavier than a churchyard stone.

It dawns as o'er the meadow-gate Peers up the yellow moon; And fame? Alas! it goes too late, Or, coming, flies too soon; It glows in power One feverish hour, Then passes like a perished flower; Or sets, to rise in alien skies, And cheat me of my lawful prize.

Why, then, my New Year's wish shall be For love—and love alone; More hands to hold out joy to me, More hearts for me to own; And if the gain In part be pain, Since time but gives to take again, Yet more than gold a thousandfold Is love that's neither bought nor sold.

—Edmund Gosse.

The Menace Of Fire

(Edmonton Journal) Figures compiled by the Dominion fire commissioner's office at Ottawa show what a terrible toll in little lives is taken. In the years 1945 to 1949, 113 children, who had been left alone or allowed to play with matches, died by fire. Of these deaths, 67 were blamed on the former and 46 on the latter cause. In 1945, alone, there were 31 from both causes. There have been many more, too, during 1950 and 1951. Nor is fire the only danger to children when parents are absent. Serious injuries are always possible with active youngsters, and they are liable to be far more serious, may even be fatal, for lack of adults on the spot to give first aid and call a doctor. There is only one safe course: Never leave the little ones alone in the house, at any time or under any circumstances, or even for the briefest time.

TLJUANA, Max. Dec. 30—(AP)—The body of a child was recovered Saturday from the ruins of Tijuana's Christmas party fire. It was the 26th body definitely counted. Police believe at least 40 persons died.

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Notes By The Way

Motorists do not like those long black stretches of highway which have no white line down the middle and the edges merge in the borders. It is difficult to gauge how near they are to oncoming cars and how near they are to hitting the soft shoulders—Stratford Beacon-Herald.

As a rule, one wedding report is about the same as another—but not the way they're covered in the Clarks, Neb., News: "The groom wore a bluish business suit, consisting of coat, vest and pants. The suit had recently been cleaned and pressed. Beneath was a freshly laundered shirt. His hair had been trimmed by Fred Gilliard, the local barber, and was brushed flat with a part on the left side." Nothing is said of the shoes, if he wore any!—Ottawa Citizen.

Demetrio Gomez, civilian chief of the plating plant at Kelly Air Force Base, near San Antonio, was walking along one day last August when a rattlesnake bit him on the leg. Gomez stood by while the rattler went into convulsions, crawled a few feet away and died. As for Gomez, he suffered no ill effects at all. As head of the plating plant, he handles a lot of sodium cyanide, a deadly poison. Over the years, his body has gradually collected a lethal accumulation of it while building up an immunity. The snake, obviously, had not.—Pageant.

The United States use from 160 to 200 billion gallons of water per day. Surface water accounts for all but about 25 billion gallons. Wells supply about two-thirds of our municipalities—an astonishing fact—and the water table is falling. We are using twice as much water as in 1935 and increased demands for water are ahead. Industry is taking more and more of it. Some industries already use waste water and over some as much as 25 times. Others use it only once. There will have to be work in this line. The amount of water needed is astounding. Production of a ton of rubber requires use of 600,000 gallons. Production of one kilowatt-hour of electricity calls for about 6,000 gallons. Aluminum drinks water, too. A ton of it requires 320,000 gallons. A family of four, if the members bathe regularly, uses about 500 gallons a day for all purposes.—Atlanta Constitution.

During the first nine months of 1951, 1,000,000 more gallons of Scotch whisky were imported into the United States than in the comparative period of 1950. But only 39,000 gallons of this extra amount went into normal trade channels. The result is warehouses in that country are glutted with good Scotch. One reason why the Scotch isn't being consumed as rapidly as importers expected, according to an explanation from the United Kingdom, is that this type of beverage is meeting keener competition from Canadian whisky. Due to its undoubted excellence, Scotch has long had great prestige. The very name has come to mean high quality, the result being that one who wouldn't know bourbon from brandy almost automatically orders Scotch as a drink for the lites. If Canadian whiskies are aiming in their competition with Scotch, this certainly is a sign of the quality of Canadian products.—Windsor Daily Star.

A member of Canada's Parliament says seven out of ten of his legislative colleagues smoke 'smuggled cigarettes'. It is probably that back in prohibition times

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