

THE GUARDIAN

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CIRCULATION "Covers Prince Edward Island like the dew" "The strongest memory is weaker than the weakest ink"

CHARLOTTETOWN TUESDAY, JAN. 5, 1954

Fabians Reach Seventy

Realizing that revolution simply means coming back to the place of commencement, a group of reformers organized seventy years ago with the object of socializing society by education and constitutional action.

Named for Q. Fabius Maximus, generally known as "Cunctator" or the "Delayer", whose cautious policy saved Rome from Hannibal, the Fabians repudiated all violent and sudden methods of reconstruction.

Many brilliant thinkers were attracted to the Fabian Society and through it to the British Labour Party. A minority, but highly vocal minority, of that party is recruited from the believers in militant Communism.

It may be said today that we are all socialists. It is merely a question of degree. It would be hard to find anyone who would want to see roads, bridges and the post office operated as private concerns.

Legion Objectives

The proper treatment of veterans by the Government is not the sole nor even the principal reason for the existence of the Canadian Legion but it certainly is a major concern of that organization.

The basic attitude which the Legion wants to see adopted is that the social assistance given free to old people, children, the blind and others should not be a measure of the maximum assistance to be given to veterans who have done far more for their country than merely living in it.

It is proposed that disability pensions be granted to veterans who were declared physically fit on enlistment and who subsequently suffered disability of which there had been no previous record.

Treatment regulations should permit a sliding scale of payment by veterans whose income is in excess of that now permissible but is not high enough to pay the costs at full rates.

The Legion advocates that the period during which re-establishment credits for the Second World War be extended to 1960; that the benefits of the Educational Assistance Act be made available to war orphans seeking vocational training as they are now available to those seeking university training.

All of these proposals call for the expenditure of public funds and must necessarily be carefully studied before adoption. It should be agreed by all fair minded citizens, however, that the assistance given the veteran and his dependents is on a different basis from the social security offered to the population as a whole and should not be restricted because it might be financially impossible to place other beneficiaries on a par with those receiving assistance as veterans.

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Pompeii Excavations

Archeologists, digging at the ruins of Pompeii for 205 years, have succeeded in uncovering one-half of the famous buried city. Block by block the ancient metropolis is being cleared of the 20-foot-thick layer of volcanic ash and stone that entombed it in A.D. 79.

At the time of its burial, Pompeii was six centuries old. It was a flourishing commercial center as well as a fashionable resort for wealthy Romans. Cicero had a villa at the foot of nearby Mount Vesuvius. The population exceeded 25,000. In A.D. 63 the city was razed by an earthquake.

Trapped in their homes and in public buildings, hundreds were smothered by poisonous gases. Others rushed into the streets and were killed by falling rocks. Many were crushed to death as panic-stricken residents mobbed the city's exits.

More than 1,500 years later, in 1594, a group of men laying a water conduit stumbled onto the ruins. The blanket of volcanic ash that destroyed Pompeii had also preserved it. Works of art and sciences and objects of everyday life were miraculously intact.

Vesuvius still casts a constant shadow over the restored city, and archeologists fear it may one day undo their work. The volcano has erupted from time to time, but there has been no modern catastrophe comparable to Pompeii.

EDITORIAL NOTES

One of the first problems to face President Auriel of France was Premier Laniel's offer to resign. It is not surprising that after the difficulty of his own election he decided not to accept the Premier's resignation.

Far better than recent appeals for quotas on fish importers is the latest proposal by Massachusetts senators. It is that the money collected from tariffs on fishery products, some twelve million dollars, be allocated to research and promotion for the industry.

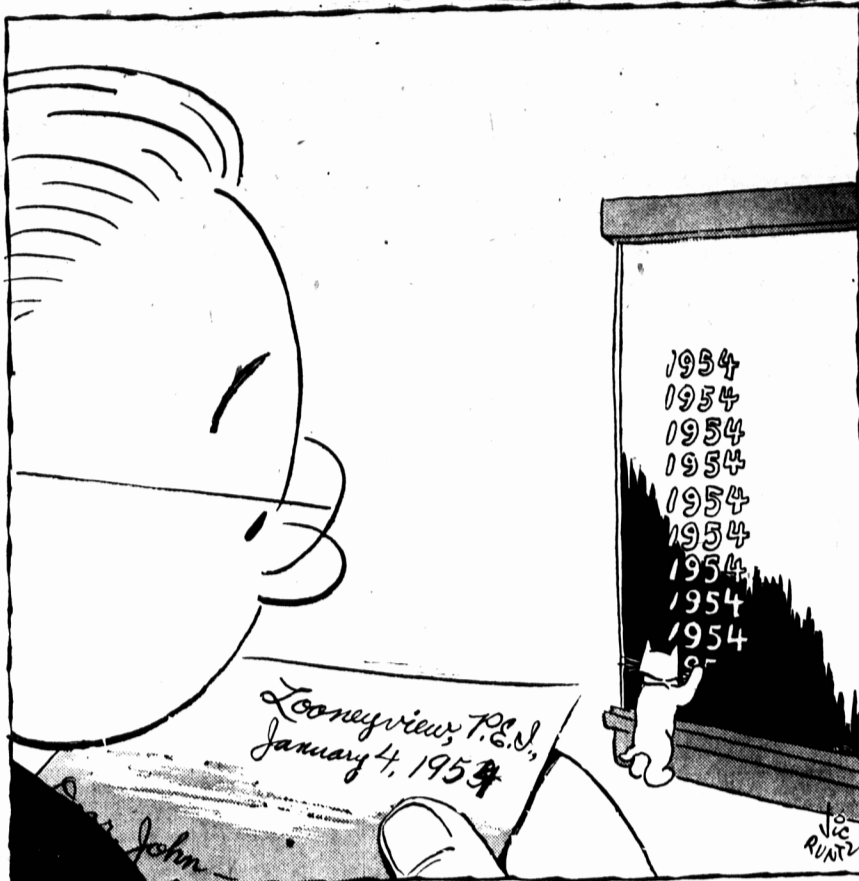
The blanket of silence which envelops the interview of American authorities with Mr. Gouzenko will do no harm so far as providing enlightenment to the investigating committee is concerned. It may, however, prove a disappointment to anyone more interested in publicity than information.

Sir Ernest Henry Shackleton, British Antarctic explorer, died this day 1922. Born in county Kildare, Ireland, in 1874, he was third lieutenant in an Antarctic expedition in 1901.

General Marshall himself says the most important thing today is a spiritual regeneration which would re-establish a feeling of good faith among men generally and especially those who are discouraged in life with low standards of living.

The streamlining of United States tax laws means a substantial saving to taxpayers both in money and in effort. Even greater reductions are needed, according to an English economist, for the purpose of stimulating the economy, but American authorities take the view that other factors, including social security benefits and high incomes, will enable production to be maintained at a high level.

Habit



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.

WHISTLE UP YOUR COURAGE

Sir,—I remember a day when after I had seen buried my dearest friend I didn't whistle but I sang "Rock of Ages Clief for Me"; and walked the floor back and forth. My courage returned and I was able to take up my work and go on. This is a day when we greatly need courage, a day when we see our hope of peace lying buried beneath a mass of vituperation and scorn. Truth lies trampled in the gutter; and evil seems to sit upon the throne. Every Christian man and woman is praying for peace but peace does not come.

What a tonic to our courage same people are! I often think of old Caleb at 85 years of age for that mountain where the giant sons of Anak lived. By the help of God he was going to route out and possess their land. At 40 years of age he with Joshua brought in a minority report urging Israel to go right up and possess the land and was stoned for his pains. And now at 85 years he has not lost his courage. We think too, of Sir Winston Churchill, at 79 proposing to go alone to Russia to talk face to face with Malenkov that keeper of the den of lions.

Where do those men get their courage that seems to rise head and shoulders above all ordinary? They believe in a God who rules the universe, and rules it in mercy and love. There He sits upon His throne, the Almighty. He sees every tear that ascends. He hears every cry that ascends but he does not see beyond the day when men shall live in peace and goodwill, and dominate the earth. Somehow, all this evil and confusion is working out the divine purpose. It must be so or God is not God. But he is God as he is revealed in Jesus. Every Christian heart testifies to that. "We know that all things work together for good".

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

THE PRICE OF PEACE

Sir,—I may say I was very pleased to read in your editorial of General Marshall's warning of the need of many of the world's population, a need of great necessity must be filled else we may lose forever nations that are still friendly to us. Did it not shock us to find China, become our bitter enemy even more than the Korean war itself?

General Marshall himself says the most important thing today is a spiritual regeneration which would re-establish a feeling of good faith among men generally and especially those who are discouraged in life with low standards of living. Why is it that our Christian Church has never accepted the challenge of Christ to help feed and clothe those underprivileged people? In fact when we realize the little we have done in nearly two thousand years it is no wonder they have cast us off and accepted something they know nothing about. The Old and New Testament teaches very clearly that we are our brother's keeper, we know what God asked Cain when his brother was missing. We know

The Poet's Corner

FROM WHEN IT IS FINISHED When it is finished Father, and we set The war-stained buckler and the bright blade by. Bid us remember then what bloody sweat, What thorns, what agony, Purchased our wreaths of harvest and ripe ears; Whose empty hand, whose empty ears, whose ears In this Gethsemane Ransomed the days to be.

—Marjorie L. C. Pickthall

too, when the Jew fell among thieves on the Jerico road that the Levite, after examining him saw he didn't belong to his kinship and felt that he was justified by passing on. The priest did likewise; he thought his office too dignified to help a man in need; but the Samaritan who was even an enemy to the Jews, moved with a heart of love for suffering humanity, instantly rendered aid as recorded in Matthew 25th chapter. Tell us that for neglecting to care for the sick, hungry naked etc., we would never see the Kingdom of God? And the work and teachings of the apostles was to this end. James, 2nd chapter, declares faith without good work is dead. Why is it we worship the birth of Christ but go very little further, especially when it comes to those foreign nations? The truth is we're going to suffer for our selfishness.

Christ was called the Prince of Peace and is. But we have regarded His word lightly. We preferred, rather than send them our surpluses of food, to build armaments to force them to stay as they are, hungry and starving. Yes, Canada spends 50 cents of every dollar in taxes on armaments in a time of peace. This is the price or punishment for not regarding His Commandments. We need't become so haughty militarily as to think God is dead or that He does not punish nations for sin. Here's a true story about Germany, just we might imagine God is asleep. Hitler told his Nazi troops the morning of the invasion of Brussels, that they were about to make history for Germany, for one thousand years. Yes, they made history for this period it is true, but for shame and contempt, as Belgium was a neutral, Hitler again proclaimed he would own the Ukraine, and the great agricultural riches of Russia.

Yes, God has a law of justice even as each state in the universe and when nations violate His rule punishment is meted out. For Germany's sin of unbelief and disobedience she is split wide open and Russia, remember, Mrs. MacArthur said down, with a rug over her, and was found unliving next morning. The old man was found dead among the stumps, about a quarter of a mile off.

"An inquest was held on Wednesday last, on the body of John Blanchard, laborer, who was found lying on the street on the night of the 17th, and conveyed home, and shortly after died, from the effects of exposure to the inclemency of the weather."

Of course we must not go all out on the social side. Salvation by faith in Christ without money and without price is a glorious story for all those in the prison house of sin. But faith without works of charity is dead for the acting body of Christ.

I am, Sir, etc., H. FRIDHAM Alberton R.R.

Old Charlottetown

(And P. E. I.) STORM FATALITIES

From the Royal Gazette, March 24, 1835: "During the terrific snowstorm on the night of the 17th inst. Mrs. William Mackay, with an infant six months old, left James Bernard's, French River, New London, for her own house, which, although only ten chains off, she was destined never to reach alive. It would appear that the unfortunate woman had lost her way, and on search being made, she was found next morning in a field within seventy yards of her own house, with her infant lying in her bosom, both quite dead.

"On the same night, John MacArthur, a man 73 years of age with his wife, of Portage, Lot 33, left their son-in-law's, to return to their own house, distant about three hundred yards. About half way, the aged couple got completely bewildered, from the violence of the tempest. A dispute having arisen between them as to the road they were pursuing, Mrs. MacArthur sat down, with a rug over her, and was found unliving next morning. The old man was found dead among the stumps, about a quarter of a mile off.

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LONDON — (CP)—Damage to oolite-shell beds by oil waste in the River Thames led the Kent and Essex sea fisheries committee to ask the London port authority to institute preventive measures.

The Passing Scene

By Observer A VISIT TO A NONAGENARIAN

For three consecutive Christmas Eves I have journeyed to Georgetown to extend the season's greetings and birthday felicitations to Mrs. Charles Johnson who was born at Boughten Island on December 26, 1855. That means, as anyone can see, that she is now 98 years old. 76 of these have been spent in her present home, a fact which helps to support an old Georgetown claim that permanent residence in that town is, per se, a reasonable guarantee of longevity.

Georgetown's oldest resident, Mrs. McKinnon, passed away only a few weeks ago at the age of 103. Mrs. Johnson now occupies the place of distinction and one feels that it would be difficult to find anyone more deserving of the honour. She will fill it with dignity, grace, and charm, all of which qualities will be accentuated by a lively, cheerful humour.

In the course of my latest visit, following the usual but perhaps not very sensible practice, I thought of asking Mrs. Johnson if she would tell me to what she attributed her long and pleasant life. However, before I got round to it, she said: "All my life I have never disliked anybody." My question had been answered before it was asked.

It isn't long ago when this kind of a recipe for longevity—or for anything else for that matter—would have been regarded by knowing people as utter sentimentality without a shred of evidence to give it meaning, much less validity. Now, the psychologists are saying that they can't think of anything more conducive to good health and spirit than a charitable disposition. The historic distinction between mind and matter has been virtually discarded and there is general agreement among the specialists that what goes on in the mind is often the key to the condition of the body. This does not mean that the gentle and kindly always live to be old, nor that the cantankerous always die young. It isn't quite as simple as that. It does seem to infer that a mind biased towards goodwill is a great help to physical fitness.

It used to be thought that, regardless of the physical condition, when a person reached 75 or 80 it was perilous to do anything more strenuous than rocking back and forth in a softly cushioned chair. As for intellectual activities of any kind, these were out of the question. Creative work, physical or mental, was only for the young and vigorous. No one could learn anything, much less teach anything, after he had reached three score and ten. After that, to the few who got beyond it, life must be bare and negative.

Just how it all started in the first place is difficult to understand; a look at the records shows that there have always been people who combined genius with old age. A few instances:

Cato, the renowned Roman statesman (circa 200 B.C.), took up the study of Greek in his 80th year and became proficient in that language. Even earlier than that the poet Sophocles was the same age when he produced his greatest work. Chaucer was 80 (a good age in those days) when he wrote his "Canterbury Tales" and Goethe was well past the four-score mark when he completed his glittering and immortal "Faust".

Those men, and others like them who could be mentioned, were, of course, not ordinary people; they were human beings, just the same. They showed by example what modern social scientists are proclaiming as a new fashion, namely, that old age does not necessarily imply mental and physical inactivity.

Mrs. Johnson, like most old people, likes to pretend that she is a very old-fashioned person. She isn't, actually. In going about her household tasks, doing a little gardening in the summer, and reading a little in the long evenings, she is practising in her own quiet way the very latest principles of normal psychology as they concern old age.

There are a lot of very old people on this Island; more, I believe, than in any other part of Canada. Let them not imagine for one moment that their days of usefulness have gone. Out of their long and varied experiences, some of which have been marked by lights and some by shadows, they have much to teach the rest of us. For them all I should like to take the liberty of quoting a few lines from a poem written by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow when he was an old man.

"What then? Shall we sit idly down and say: The night hath come; it is no longer day? Cut off from labour by the falling light: Something remains for us to do or dare; Even the oldest tree some fruit may bear. For age is opportunity no less Than youth itself, though in another dress, And as the evening twilight fades away The sky is filled with stars, invisible by day."

The Age Old Story

Charge them that are rich in this world, that they be not high-minded, nor trust in uncertain riches, but in the living God, who giveth us richly all things to enjoy; that they do good, that they be rich in good works, ready to distribute, willing to communicate; laying up in store for themselves a good foundation against the time to come, that they may lay hold on eternal life.

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