

THE GUARDIAN

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CIRCULATION "Covers Prince Edward Island like the dew"

"The strongest memory is weaker than the weakest ink"

CHARLOTTETOWN, WEDNESDAY, DEC. 31, 1953

Gate Of The Year

Not the least pleasurable feature of a New Year is its uncertainties. Anything may happen, and often it does. A casual inference of what the year holds might be discouraging enough, if we were to take the pessimists seriously. But we recall that the prophets of gloom were equally pessimistic about last year's prospects, and of the years before that. The optimists, of course, have erred on the other side; but to travel hopefully is the surest way of reaching one's destination. This applies to nations as well as individuals. A philosopher has noted that the deepest, the only theme of human history, compared to which all others are of subordinate importance, is the conflict of skepticism with faith. All epochs that are ruled by faith are elevating and fruitful in themselves and for posterity; all epochs, on the other hand, in which skepticism predominates, and seems for a time to triumph, lose their meaning for posterity, because no one can take pleasure in wrestling with the study of what is essentially sterile. This is a thought we might well take with us into 1953. It goes to the root of the trouble in world affairs, just as surely as it affects our own individual lives and fortunes.

Certainly, if the Old Year did not fulfill our brightest expectations, neither did it justify our darkest forebodings. The Korean war, which remains the darkest shadow across the pattern of the year, has at least been confined to that unhappy country. The struggle has settled down to one of position with small-scale ground operations. The Atomic Bomb remains a weapon in being. The aspirations of the less materially advanced countries have been brought nearer realization with a notable exception, by a spirit of co-operation with the more highly industrialized nations.

So far as Canada is concerned, we have surely every reason to look forward with confidence and optimism. We have freedom of worship and ordered government, with an abundance of the luxuries as well as the necessities of life, and with tremendous possibilities of expansion industrially and otherwise. We have left far behind the period when we were discarding the duties of a member of the British Empire and had not begun to assume the necessary tasks of our place in the community of nations. The first was an ideal school for the second but we went through a period of relief from tuition before accepting mature responsibility.

This Province has made steady gains, although they are overshadowed by the spectacular growth of other parts of the nation. We have enjoyed prosperity at home without ceasing to send forth our sons and daughters to make their mark in other Provinces and States. In some measure we have been able to welcome new Canadians who, in return for the opportunity to establish homes, have brought us new contacts with other lands and ancient cultures.

The future is neither a picture in glowing colours nor a dark abyss. It is a winding road along which we cannot see but which challenges our imagination as well as our hopes. To our readers The Guardian extends the wish that the way may be smooth and that when the going is rough they may by faith overcome every obstacle.

A Legal Anomaly

The Ottawa Journal cites a curious illustration of the working of the law under which hundreds of persons have been fined, and some sent to jail, for driving a motor vehicle while their ability to drive was impaired by the use of alcohol or drugs. In Stratford, Ont., a charge of this sort was dismissed when Magistrate Cook ruled "that although the Crown proved the defendant intoxicated it had not proved his driving was impaired by his intoxication." Police testified there was nothing wrong with the way the accused handled his car other than its slow speed.

"Had this man been charged under the old section of the Criminal Code which makes it an offence to be in control of a car while intoxicated," says the Journal, "he must have been convicted, and seven days in jail would have been the minimum punishment. Under the newer law the Stratford ruling is that to be drunk and in charge of a motor vehicle is not enough to warrant conviction. There must be proof

of actual impairment of the ability to drive. In that precedent a conviction would seem doubtful if a man overcame with liquor, parked his car off the highway and went to sleep. There would be no evidence of an impaired ability to handle his car."

EDITORIAL NOTES

Prime Minister Churchill is a curate herp. He sails today to meet the successor to the successor of his war-time colleague in leading the free world against Hitler.

Activities in the Department of Public Works and Highways were more extensive than usual this year, and they are ably reviewed in today's issue by the Deputy Minister, Mr. Gordon White.

At the present rate of increase it won't be long until 3,000,000 motor vehicles are registered in Canada. The 1951 total was 2,872,240. With 10 passenger cars for every 48 people, Ontario leads in per capita registrations.

Attention is called to the comprehensive year-end review of agricultural conditions by Deputy Minister W. R. Shaw, appearing in today's issue. The Guardian has been privileged to carry this feature for many years at this season, and it is one which is very widely appreciated.

The number of cars on the go tonight will be considerably smaller than if the streets had remained bare. Resolutions to drive carefully, however, should take effect immediately rather than with the New Year. Fogged windows and befogged drivers can be a deadly combination.

Assurance that the change in status of the R. C. A. F. Station at Summerside will mean no reduction in numbers will not prevent Islanders receiving the official announcement with regret. The transfer of the Air Navigation School to Winnipeg will deprive this Province of the distinction of training the outstanding aerial navigators in the North Atlantic Community.

The officers and members of the Benevolent Irish Society have been receiving well deserved congratulations on the completion of their new building in Charlottetown. Their vigorous reaction to what might have been a knock-out blow to the Society shows that they are worthy successors to the founders.

The late Lieut. Colonel Chandler was widely known and news of his death will be received with regret by a large circle of friends at home and abroad. A veteran of the First World War, in which he suffered the loss of a leg, he was active for several years in the Reserve forces and always took a keen interest in military matters. He was a past president of the Queen's County Liberal Association, and a former member of the City Council. In the latter capacity he served as chairman of the finance committee with outstanding ability and conscientiousness.

George Catlett Marshall, American soldier and statesman, was born this date 1880. He rose from private to be head of the American Army. In the Philippines insurrection of 1896 he drew up what was considered the best plan for the defence of Manila and later helped settle the Islands' affairs. As operations chief in France in the First World War he moved nearly half a million men and 2700 guns up to the front in under a fortnight. He helped to mechanize the peace-time Army and was promoted General over 30 seniors on the day the Germans invaded Poland, becoming chief of general staff. The great American fighting force was largely his creation. He attempted to bring an end to Chinese civil strife and produced the Marshall Plan for the rehabilitation of Europe.

"First Footing" is one of the traditional gestures of greeting the New Year in Scotland. The "first foot" is the first person, other than a member of a household, who crosses the threshold after midnight on January 31. In the early hours of New Year's morning groups of young people make "first foot" expeditions from house to house. The appearance of the "first foot" is important, since it is held to indicate the luck of the household throughout the year. A dark man is a prime favourite: the taboo on fair men is thought to date back to the Norse invasions of Scotland when fair men were unpopular visitors! Unlucky "first footers" include those with physical defects, stingy and sanctimonious persons, and hypocrites. Lucky "first footers" include healthy, robust persons, and those of good repute and kindly disposition. By tradition the "first footers" must not arrive empty handed. They may carry anything from an orange to a bottle of whisky.

Boots To Step Into



The Poet's Corner

NEW YEAR'S EVE

Once on the year's last eve, in my mind's might Sitting in dreams, not sad, nor quite elysian, Balancing all 'twixt wonder and derision, Methought my body and all this world took flight And vanished from me, as a dream, outright; Leaning out thus in sudden strange decision, I saw as in the flashing of a vision, Far down between the tall towers of the night, Borne by great winds in awful union, masses of mankind sweep by, Even as a glittering river with deep sound And innumerable banners, rolling on, Over the starry border-glooms that bound The last grey space in dim eternity.

And all that strange unearthly multitude Seemed twisted in vast seething companies That evermore, with hoarse and terrible cries And desperate encounter at mad feud, Plunge onward, each in its implacable mood Borne down over the trampled blazonnies Of other faiths and other phantasies, Each following furiously, and each pursued; So sped they on with tumult vast and grim But ever meseemed beyond them I could see White-haloed groups that sought perpetually The figure of one crowned and sacrificed; And faint, far forward, floating tall and dim The banner of our Lord and Master, Christ. —Archibald Lampman.

Old Charlottetown (And P. E. I.)

WINTER CROSSING

"The Northern Light" was seen last evening about 15 miles east of Cape Bear. She appeared to be steaming slowly through the ice. The boat's crew, under Mate J. MacKay which landed from her Sunday week, tried to go off again on Monday, the 6th. They hauled their boat about five miles over the ice, and walked about three miles, but could see nothing of the steamer. They returned completely exhausted. "Later: Eleven passengers and three of the 'Northern Light's' crew landed at Cape Sharp today. They were twenty-six hours on the ice. Last night they gave up all hope of reaching the shore, but this morning they took fresh courage and finished their hard journey. They suffered much from frost and exposure. Several of them are frozen, though not seriously. They left on board three women, one child, two men and thirteen men of the crew. The provisions are getting short. "The passengers landed were: W. J. Miller, Thomas Bickwell (toes frozen), Wm. Price, Allan McDonald, Capt. Anderson, Mrs. Dingwell, A. C. McLeod and wife, Alex Dixon (badly frozen on both feet), Mr. Hennessy, and D. D. Ryan. —The Examiner, Feb. 9, 1881.

PIONEER SOCIETY The Paulist Fathers, known officially as the Missionary Society of St. Paul the Apostle, were founded at New York in 1858.

Some Old Resolutions

"I did this night promise to my ways or wits or fashions or men wife never to go to bed without calling upon God upon my knees by prayer, and I began this night and hope I shall never forget to do the like all my life: for I do find that it is much the best for my soul and for body to live pleasing to God and my poor wife, and will ease me of much care as well as much expense." —Samuel Pepys. "Jan. 1, 1882. I am glad to find that in the past year I have accomplished more than usual in the way of reading. The importance of reading, not slight stuff to get through the time, but the best that has been written, forces itself upon me more and more every year I live. If I live to be 80 I shall probably be the only person left in England who reads anything but newspapers and scientific publications." —Matthew Arnold. "I awakened at noon with a severe headache and I was much vexed that I should have been guilty of such a riot and afraid of a reproof from Dr. Johnson. I went into his room and taking up Mrs. McKinnon's Prayer-book, I opened at the twentieth Sunday after Trinity, in the epistle for which I read, 'And be not drunk with wine wherein there is excess.'" —James Boswell. "I will be a man among men; and no longer a dreamer among shadows. Henceforth be mine a life of action and reality! I will work in my own sphere, nor wish it other than it is. This alone is health and happiness." —Henry Wadsworth Longfellow. "I am accustomed, every New Year's morning, to sit down on a stool by the wayside, to scratch with my staff in the sand before me, and to think of this and of that . . . on New Year's morning . . . I sit there and think that during the past year I saw the sun rise so often, and the moon—that I saw so many rainbows and flowers, and breathed the air so often and drank from the brook and then I do not like to look up, so I take with both hands my cap from my head and look into that." —Matthias Claudius. "This I resolve on—to run, when I can; to go, when I cannot run; and to come, when I cannot go." —John Bunyan. "The one resolution, which was in my mind long before it took the form of a resolution, is the keynote of my life. It is this: Always to regard as mere impertinence of fate the handicaps which were placed upon my life almost at the beginning." —Walter. "Resolved: To combat notions of obligation; to . . . to reclaim imagination; rise as early as I can; to keep a journal; to drink less strong liquors; put books in order." —Dr. Samuel Johnson. "Resolved (when I come to be old): Not to marry a young woman; not to be peevish or morose or suspicious; not to scorn present

The Age-Old Story

In the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried, saying, if any man thirst, let him come unto me, and drink. . . (But this spake he of the Spirit, which they that believe on him should receive: for the Holy Ghost was not yet given; because that Jesus was not yet glorified.) Many of the people therefore, when they heard this saying, said, Of a truth this is the Prophet.

HISTORIC EDITION The first Catholic New Testament in English was issued at Reims, France in 1582.

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A HAPPY NEW YEAR 12-53 O'CLOCK We wish you the best in the New Year to come! STOREY ELECTRIC 224 Weymouth Phone 3007

Notes By The Way

By sending Christmas cards to people this year who sent them to you last year but won't this year because you didn't send them any last year, strained relations are assured for another year.—Edmonton Journal. Premier Duplessis promises "utmost severity" against holders of liquor licences in Quebec who break the regulations over the holidays. And rightly. Celebration of Christmas and New Year's should not be taken as justifying any breakdown in the liquor laws.—Ottawa Journal. The need now is not to cut down spending but to make sure that we get our money's worth. It is better to have two well-lighted, well-ventilated classrooms than one crowded classroom and a fancy cafeteria. Our school dollars must be stretched to the limit in these high-priced times.—Vancouver Province. Incidentally, comic-book publishers disposed of 800 million copies in 1951—a 700 per cent increase in ten years. But banish the thought of invading this field yourself. Last month there were over 500 separate and distinct comics on, under, or behind the newsstands, and many of the publishers are starving to death. Kindly omit tears.—Saturday Review. It has long been a practice of our Sovereigns to recognize special services to the state. For instance, at Hampton Court Palace there are "grace and favor" apartments which provide living quarters for a few who merit well the special consideration of the nation. This idea should be picked up by the Kremlin, which has so many worthy eligibles for its grace and favor. One with high priority for free tenancy would be James Endicott, one of the year's winners of a Stalin "peace" prize. He could go in on the ground floor.—Toronto Financial Post. The hard truth remains that judgment, however delayed, is inevitable. Every person and every group of persons (no matter how large) must face the inescapable fate of being judged according to their work. The excuse, or the organized defences, may become elaborate and powerful. But nothing can prevail against the ultimate demands of reality. This may be a hard law, but it is also a fair one. Every man is given himself as his responsibility. He can no more escape that responsibility crowded classroom and a fancy cafeteria. Our school dollars must be stretched to the limit in these high-priced times.—Vancouver Province. That curious little fish, the herring, still seems about the inlet of the British Columbia coast but every day the oils of its body are shrinking. As a commercial product the herring depreciates as the winter wears on. But this matters little to man at the moment because no one is catching the herring and turning it into oil and meal. A major British Columbia crop is unreaped while the fishing industry remains paralyzed by a strike. It is difficult for the ordinary man to understand why there should be a strike. On the terms offered by the operators the average herring fisherman could earn between \$2,600 and \$3,500 for some three months' winter work and in that period, he would be working about half the time.—Victoria Times.

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