# THE GUARDIAN

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"Covers Prince Edward Island Like the Dew"

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"The strongest memory is weaker than the weakest ink."

TUESDAY, JAN. 11, 1955


## German Technology

While Western diplomats are busy on plans to bring West Germany into NATO as a free and equal partner, the Bonn Government is going ahead with plans to extend West German economic influence in various parts of the world, especially in the Middle East, India, Africa, and South America. Already a treaty of trade and friendship has been signed with Iran, under which German research scientists, technicians, and engineers will be provided for a huge development program. Other treaties being negotiated call for German construction of an irrigation dam in Egypt, smelters in India, fertilizer plants in a number of places in Latin America, building of railways in Syria, and development of iron ore mines in Saudi Arabia and parts of Africa. It is reported that, in order to facilitate these and other undertakings, West German technical schools and universities are being used for training of promising students from all the areas involved in the planned industrial expansion. Meanwhile, in Europe, the Germans have regained their traditional role as the biggest single exporter of manufactured goods to neighbouring countries.

There would be no point now in reflecting on how much pain and sorrow civilization would have been spared, had former generations of Germans been content with reaching out to the East and South for commercial profit instead of territorial acquisition. That is water under the bridge; for that matter, the Germans are not the only people in history who have had to learn the hard way that peaceful penetration of other nations' territories is more profitable than attempts to appropriate "lebensraum" by military force. German technological strength is well known; dissociated from inordinate political ambitions, there is no question that it is capable of playing an important part in the industrial development of the backward areas of the world.

## Life In 2000

What will life be like in 2000 A.D.? In the current issue of its journal, the Royal Society of Arts, London, gives a summary of the opinions of 184 people in various parts of the world who submitted entries to the Society's bicentenary competition asking for forecasts of a practical aspect of life on this earth in another half century. The views are highly interesting, if not prophetic.

In communications, the rocket letter-post will have made return mail to Australia in a single day possible; pedestrians will move quickly along main streets on automatic speed walks; pavements in main streets will be raised to first storey level to allow wider roadways for the traffic below.

A single plastic dome will cover the vast city of London; house lighting will be provided by fluorescent walls; domestic heating and ventilation will be controlled by covering each house and garden with a plastic shell entered by an airlock.

No specific subjects will be taught in schools; education will consist of games and occupational therapy; hypnosis will be used as a mechanical aid to learning. A meatless vegetarian diet will have become compulsory to avoid the land-waste involved in meat production. A device will have been invented to prevent at a distance the fission of atomic nuclei, thus countering the dangers of atomic bombing. Hypnotism will be the accepted means of banishing physical and emotional pain.

Some of these changes are already on the way; others may never materialize. What we can be sure of, at any rate, is that living conditions will be vastly different a half century hence. And the difference will lie, not in the development of newer techniques and scientific gadgets, but on our success or failure in meeting the moral challenge of the new age.

## A Rabbi's Advice

A time-honoured rhetorical technique is the listing of ways and means of promoting a political or philosophical structure which the speaker has undertaken to denounce. It was used recently by a noted American Jewish Rabbi, Bernard J. Bamberger, in an address on Communism. He said that, after publicizing himself as "a hundred per cent American patriot", he would do certain things and adopt certain attitudes, to wit:

1. Build up suspicion, illwill, and divisions among various groups of citizens. A good example of this tactic was the "20 years of treason" tag put on the Democrats by some Republican orators in the November election. In Canada the chief instrument would be the rekindling of animosities between English-speaking and French-speaking citizens; 2. Delay in every way possible the carrying out of the Supreme Court's anti-segregation ruling respecting public schools. The longer this is put off, the easier it is for the Communists to scorn American democracy; 3. Do everything possible, by fair means or foul, to destroy the morale of government services. The firing of officials on hearsay evidence of subversion, without bothering about due process of law, should be encouraged; 4. Encourage civil servants and all other public employees to spy on one another and make baseless accusations of Communistic sympathies. Above all, keep harping on the theme that Liberalism in politics, economics, or education, is the same thing as atheistic Communism. Never mention the fact that the Communist philosophy has no room for anything resembling freedom of thought; 5. If a business-man, shout for ever bigger profits; if a wage-earner, stop at nothing to secure higher wages. Everybody should agitate for lower taxes at the expense of defense budgets; 6. Insist on reducing aid to backward countries. It is well known that poverty and ignorance are valuable aids to the growth of Communism.

The last paragraph of Rabbi Bamberger's address is worth quoting verbatim: "The only way to preserve freedom is to practice freedom. The only way to achieve justice is to practice justice. The only way to enlist the whole-hearted support of the people is neither to frighten them nor to flatter and coddle them, but to tell them the unvarnished truth and to challenge them to loyal, united, and sacrificial effort." Surely all this is good advice; the fact that it was given by a Jewish religious leader does not make it any less valuable.

## EDITORIAL NOTES

A Quebec judge has ruled that it is no valid defence, if a motorist is charged with causing an accident, for him to claim that the sun was shining in his eyes. He can wear sun-glasses—or a driver should stop when he realizes it is dangerous to continue.

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If the calculations of Dr. Harlow Shapley, chief astronomer at Harvard, are even fairly accurate, all the discussions regarding the possibility of life on Mars and other known planets soon will be numbered among the intellectual puerilities. He says there is good reason to believe there are millions of earths, each one populated as our own.

* * *

Dr. Maurice Lewis, President of the Long Island College of Podiatry, has a word for elderly people in good health: "Carry on and you'll live longer." Moreover, Dr. Lewis practices what he preaches. At 97 he not only runs a busy college but holds medical consultations regularly; quite often he works until midnight. He has only one other prescription for longevity: "Don't eat too much." Our own Dr. Roddie probably would agree with him on both counts.

* * *

The most famous of British collectors, Sir Hans Sloane, died this date 1753. He succeeded Sir Isaac Newton as president of the Royal Society. When he retired from active work as a physician in 1741 his library and cabinet of curiosities had grown to be of unique value. He bequeathed them to the nation on condition that Parliament should pay to his executors £20,000. The bequest was accepted and went to form the collection which was opened to the public at Bloomsbury as the British Museum in 1759.

* * *

It has been established that the two main causes of hunting accidents are overeagerness and carelessness. The same factors have much to do with road accidents. Until it is generally realized that hurried and careless driving is both dangerous and stupid, there will be little improvement in the situation that turns the highways of all civilized countries into human slaughtering grounds every holiday season. Anyone can have an accident, it is true, but a little common sense applied at the right time has helped to avoid many a tragedy.

* * *

Strong arguments against further delay in seeking a replacement for the S. S. "Prince Edward Island" are given by Mr. F. W. Curtis in his letter in yesterday's Public Forum. He points out that it is likely to take at least a year before the necessary federal funds can be appropriated, another year before the final designs can be made and approved, and two more years before the craft can be built and launched. This means that even with prompt action being taken now it will be almost 1960 before the old carferry can be replaced. Our federal representatives have good grounds for bringing the matter before the Government at once.

On Thin Ice

## Mr. Massey On Reading

(Extracts from an address by the Governor General at the 125th anniversary dinner in Toronto of the United Church Publishing House and the Ryerson Press.)

It has been set forth with vigor and clarity — I leave to my hearers to say with how much truth —by a German writer:

"To write books," he says, "is easy, it requires only pen and ink and the ever patient paper. To print books is a little more difficult, because genius so often rejoices in illegible handwriting. To read books is more difficult still, because of the tendency to go to sleep. But the most difficult task of all that a mortal man can embark upon is to sell a book."

Perhaps the most significant aspect of this occasion is its implicit reference to the future. To survive 125 years of book publishing in Canada is a notable achievement. To look forward with confidence to the next century and a quarter is even more notable as an act of faith.

There are many today who are ready to proclaim that books will find little or no place in this age of mass media. It has even been claimed —and I quote the sensational words that were used, that: "Radio and TV have books on the ropes."

Whether or no the publisher is prepared to subscribe to this as a dogma, he will agree that it cannot altogether be brushed aside. Today books are becoming no longer the exclusive or even the principal means of communication, and there is an alarming relative decline in their use as a means of recreation. They are being replaced by radio in its various forms, by television, and of course by the cinema.

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The last two represent increasingly the pictorial tastes of the masses who are turning more and more to wordless cartoons or to pictures in which the captions are couched in the most primitive and rudimentary of language. Sometimes it seems that what is conveyed by this language is not received through the mind at all but is absorbed by the pores!

This does not mean that books and reading are not increasing, but they are not increasing at all proportionally to the wealth and leisure of the population, nor is their increase relative to the growth in the use of all of the other "audio-visual" means of communication.

This tendency has been commented on by many observers, some of whom regard it as inevitable and even desirable. It may be tactless to remind the audience of this evening, but it is nevertheless true, that civilization endured for thousands of years before the appearance of the printed book. We must also remember that printed books have been circulating only for some five centuries, and that our society has known general literacy for little more than a hundred years.

One might well conclude that a widespread and constant use of books may be only a slight interlude, a transition, shall we say, between natural and scientific forms of communication. Books, it may be argued, will remain with us, but once again will be confined to libraries for the use of the cloistered scholar. The world will pass them by, securing its information through more attractive, more convenient, more striking, and broader channels . . .

* * *

In our age, marked by a progressive revelation of new and significant knowledge, there is a constant demand for information which cannot be met by a series of radio talks, however good. On the contrary, as we all know, the usual response to a satisfying series of addresses on the air, is the demand that they be printed. As a means of serious communication there may be supplements to, but there is no substitute for the clear, adequate, permanent and portable book.

I need not labor this obvious truth. Less obvious, but in my opinion of the first importance, is the purpose so nobly set forth by Milton in his famous essay. Books foster, feed, inspire and preserve the individual in society. If the Western world is distinguished from all other civilizations by the integrity and the freedom of the individual, it is also distinguished from all other civilizations by the free production and the free passage of books. The two facts are not unconnected accidents.

Today perhaps we cannot say that books have freed the person, but we can at least assert that personal freedom and a general concern for the integrity of the individual has gone hand in hand with the general use of books.

One might indeed go further, recalling that the pursuit of literature cannot be reduced to the merely rational level of social emancipation. It is no disservice to the practical affairs of life to remind ourselves that books are the embodiment of one of the greatest and most universal forms of art, one which has an appeal for every age and every taste, which can be pursued, at every time and every place and in all circumstances.

* * *

I recall Machiavelli's great tribute to the wealth and freedom which he found in his library. Having been dismissed from office, imprisoned, tortured and disgraced, he was released and allowed to retire to his own small estate. He describes his daily occupations and then concludes:

"The evening being come I return home and go to my study; at the entrance I pull off my peasant clothes covered with dust and dirt and put on my noble court dress and thus becoming reclothed I pass into the ancient courts of the men of old where being lovingly received by them, I am fed with that food which is mine alone; where I do not hesitate to speak with them and ask them the reason of their actions, and they in their benignity answer me! and for four hours I feel no weariness, I forget every trouble, poverty does not dismay, death does not terrify me; I am possessed entirely by those great men."

Although my reference to Machiavelli may seem to suggest the contrary, it is striking that the pursuit and enjoyment of literature seem to belong in a special way to free peoples.

* * *

It is a question, I think, whether a great literature can flourish long, or even at all, among people in a condition of bondage. At all events I think that I am right in saying that the two freest of the great nations of the Western world are the two which are notable for their long, coherent and distinguished literary production. I am referring, of course, to the English and to the French, and to the literatures which represent perhaps their finest contributions to civilization.

Today in a mass-produced, mass organized, "group-thinking" society, books are above all others the means by which the individual may be nourished and a free society preserved. It is not only that the solitary reader finds himself in the company of great men standing, as it were, on an equal footing and able to come to terms with them.

The reflective reader is also invited, if not obliged, to look into his own mind and conscience, and to come to terms with himself. No other means of communication offers him this opportunity. All others carry him along at a time and pace set by the machine. He must listen or watch with the group, he is constantly subjected to the emotional pressures almost inherent in group operations.

At best the individual today is constantly menaced by the encroachments — often the well-meant and apparently beneficial encroachments — of the group. Good books, and perhaps good books alone, can check the rapid and degrading depersonalization which is the threat of our times.

## The Age Old Story

Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

## The Poet's Corner

### SHEPHERD OF THE RAIN

Rain flings slim silver hands to either side
And calls, soft-voiced to bring the small sheep in . . .
A gentle shepherd moving with the stride
Of hills and distances, his origin.

Reluctant lambs with tendencies to roam
Too far afield can feel the teeth of wind
Nip sharply at their heels and turn them home
On stumbling, hurried legs, well-disciplined.

How tenderly the rain goes circling round
The sheep to turn and head them shelterwise . . .
His slender sandals skim the darkened ground,
His shoulders curve beneath the weight of skies.

But love is in his touch . . . and small sheep go
As he directs, for even small sheep know.

—Bonnie Elizabeth Parker in the Christian Science Monitor.

## Tall Tale On

(St. Catharines Standard)

The Loch Ness monster is back in the headliness again, giving people around the world something to discuss besides war and rumours of war. It was an appropriate time for Old Faithful to break into the news, for the monster business was getting rather dull.

Old Faithful is the one and, we hope, only Loch Ness monster. It was first reported from this Scottish lake during the summer of 1933. Every so often it shows up again — enough to make page one around the world.

During December, 1933, the sedate London Times devoted three columns to a sober account written by Lt-Cdr. R. T. Gould (Ret.) of the Royal Navy. Commander Gould had talked to every one he could find — 51 witnesses —who had reported seeing the subterranean "serpent" rise to the surface. And he seemed convinced that many people had seen something out of the ordinary.

This time Loch Ness sweeps into the news on a new wrinkle. Can modern sonar devices sketch a sea serpent that isn't there?

The fishing trawler Rival has an echo-sounding machine, complete with chart and graphing needle. Suddenly the other day while traversing Loch Ness the needle drew the outline of a stranger monster at a depth of 840 feet — small head, eight legs, a tail 18 feet long. The makers of the equipment say the image is bona fide — something the machine "saw."

We like the Loch Ness beast. He makes the world interesting. He supplies the riddle with, thus far, no answer. He never seems to hurt any one or anything. Which can't be said of several other characters in history without even the help of excess legs and a tail.

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### HISTORIC INDUSTRY

Blast furnaces for smelting iron ore were first used in Belgium about 1340.

### SEA-FOOD SPECIAL

Hard-shelled clams in Canadian Atlantic waters need six to eight years to reach marketable size.

## NOTES BY THE WAY

**One reason why girls are easier** to raise than boys is that you can get away with giving them clothes for Christmas almost from the start.—Edmonton Journal.

**The problems of contemporary** art are not merely problems of popularizing strange-looking pictures. Art touches life in so many ways that its problems have significance and value even for those who consider themselves to have no particular "appreciation" for art. The "art for art's sake" notion went down the drain long ago.—Winnipeg Tribune.

**There are indignant complaints** from those who like to mix driving and drinking that police road blocks to catch impaired drivers are "an infringement on personal liberty." They need to be reminded that under our system personal liberties are not allowed to infringe on public safety. — Vancouver Province.

**Sweden is the latest European** country to change its centuries old actice of driving on the left side of the road. Recently, because the tourist trade is important, and so many tourists were being involved in accidents, the American rule of "keeping to the right" was adopted. According to a news report, Great Britain and Greece are the last countries to drive to the left. —Chatham News.

**In the Queen's honors list for the** New Year appeared the name of Wilfred Clark, professor of anatomy at Oxford University. It is thought possible that Prof. Clark was selected for this particular honors list partly because of his achievement in exposing the skull of the Piltdown Man as a hoax. If this is so, the achievement deserves the honor given. For it has proved a valuable warning to science not to allow the longing to prove a theory to end in the acceptance of doubious evidence. —Montreal Gazette.

**Time was when English men** and women greeted each other by kissing, which was the only acceptable manner of saying: "Pleased to meet you." That rule held for people who were presented to each other at a party and during visits, when the man had to kiss all the women of the house, beginning with the hostess and winding up with the maid, and was kissed in return by them. When travelling, the English gentleman was embraced by the innkeeper's wife, by her daughters and by the maids working at the inn. But alas!—one day the Puritans condemned this custom forever.—Paris Constellation.

**Commenting the other day on** reading habits, The Times of London indulged in some simple arithmetic which deflates the vanity of those who consider themselves widely read. Suppose a person read 150 books a year for forty years; resisting the desire to read any book twice, he would, in an adult reading life of sixty years, get through 9,000 volumes. For a person who has organized his reading —a stalwart who can resist the vulgar clamouring for attention of trash—three books a week is not an unreasonable ration, particularly if he is skilled in the honourable art of skipping. But 9,000 volumes is a small corner in the vast library of world literature even though it represents the reading for recreation and instruction of a fairly diligent person throughout his adult life.—Hamilton Spectator.

**"What's a dining room?" said a** child to me when we were designing a leaf house, Saturday. It was only then I realized that children brought up in many of our modern homes have never heard of a dining room. How I wish we had our dining room back. Living room eating does not make for easy living in my books.—Amherstberg Echo.

**After months of study, master** minds in the U. S. department of agriculture have found that you can't make chicken soup out of skin and bones. Most of the flavor is in the meat, the scientists reported. This item should be brought to the attention of restaurateurs who seem to think that chicken soup can be made by using a mirror to reflect the image of a chicken into a pot of boiling water.—Kitchener-Waterloo Record.

**A Lot of people who have taken** depreciation credit on improved property are finding themselves up against having to pay income tax on the difference between the depreciated price and the sales price. It is a version of a capital gains tax. When they ask for details of the law governing their case, they are shown Section 20 of the Income Tax Act. This reads: "Where a depreciable property of a taxpayer of a prescribed class has, in a taxation year, been disposed of and the proceeds of disposition exceed the undepreciated capital cost to him of depreciable property of that class immediately before the disposition of the lesser of (a) the amount of the excess, or (b) the amount of the excess that would be if the property had not been disposed of for the capital cost of the taxpayer, shall be included in computing his income for the year." How many persons can work out the meaning of that one? Yet, it is typical of the gobbledegook or officialese in which many of our regulations and laws are couched. Why should government regulations not be written in clear straightforward English which everybody can understand, instead of in the manner of the verbal exhibitionist? A style which conceals the meaning is the product of a half-educated mind.


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