

THE GUARDIAN

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Editor and Manager, Ian A. Burnett. Associate Editor, Frank Walker.

CIRCULATION "Covers Prince Edward Island like the dew"

"The strongest memory is weaker than the weakest ink"

CHARLOTTETOWN, FRIDAY, APRIL 2, 1954

A Soviet Fear

Despite all the atheistic fare that has been fed to the minds of the Russian people for nearly forty years, religion is still a problem to the Communist leaders; that at any rate is what one would gather from statements attributed to the national secretary of the Komsomol, the official Communist organization. Said the secretary: "Some leaders are inclined to underestimate the harmful influence of the church on Soviet youth. We may as well acknowledge that anti-religious propaganda has been seriously weakened and in some places it has ended."

To Western peoples, who feel that too little religion, not too much, is at the root of many of their troubles, this sorrowful lament concerning the tenacity of some sort of religious consciousness will seem incredible; but it must be remembered that dialectical materialism, the fundamental doctrine of Marxism as interpreted and applied by Russian political leaders, cannot succeed completely so long as the slightest trace of traditional religion remains on Soviet life and manners. It is not a philosophy that can exist side by side with religious morality; it can be satisfied with nothing less than extermination of everything that stands in its way.

If the fear expressed by the leader of the young Communists is justified, it may mean that Communism has not yet succeeded in enslaving utterly the spirits of the Russian people. There may be even some hope for a revival of truth and good faith which have been absent for so long in the official Russian attitude. Perhaps the Latin poet Horace was right when he said: "You may throw Nature out with a pitchfork, but she will keep coming back."

Wild Life Week

The week of April 10, Jack Miner's birthday, has for some years been celebrated as National Wildlife Week. Its purpose is to make us all, but particularly young people, conscious of the responsibility of conserving wild life. Jack Miner himself was in the words of his citation for the Order of the British Empire honoured "for the greatest achievement in conservation in the British Empire."

The Maritime Wildlife Federation was organized three years ago on board the S. S. Abegweit by representatives of the Fish and Game Associations of the three Provinces. It has taken an active part in various conservation activities, particularly in the study of game laws and the destruction of the natural enemies of our game birds. At the next meeting of the Federation which will be June 26 and 27 at Pictou it is proposed to take up amongst other things a hunting accidents prevention programme.

In this Province there has already been encouragement given to youngsters to learn to treat guns with respect. Most accidents are the result of carelessness and ignorance. A boy who has been thoroughly instructed in the care and handling of firearms will not make the foolish mistakes which result in the destruction of valuable non-game wildlife, of public and private property, and even of his own or another's life.

Island officers of the Federation for the year now ending are Messrs. F. A. S. Jones, president, Richard Found, vice-president and B. Graham Rogers, secretary. They expect some 200 delegates from the member associations as well as visitors from other Provinces and States.

International School

Reference was made in these columns yesterday to the International School for Children near the village of Saint-Germain-Laye. Further details are contained in the following editorial from the Winnipeg Free Press:

Children from twelve countries are gathered there. They are from the families of soldiers and sailors stationed at Supreme Headquarters, Allied Powers, Europe. Children from the embassy families are there also. After that, if there is any room, the children of the French residents in the area may attend. As the enrolment stands there are 135 French, 87 Americans, 75 British, 45 Dutch, 20 Canadians, 20 Italians, 8 Turks, 5 Danes, 5 Belgians, 5 Greeks, 2 Norwegians, 2 South Africans and Luxembourgians. The little folks from Iron Curtain countries living in Paris were invited to join but Moscow wasn't having any. Which, considering Moscow's philosophy, was wise.

The grades run from the four year olds

of the kindergarten, happily mixing their own and the French language, to young persons of the eighth grade. The basic language of the school is French, with six hours a week given to instruction to national groups, of course in their own languages. The report does not say whether all the English-speaking children get together in one class but it seems entirely likely. As for the parents, they, at least those whose language is English, are tremblingly proud that their youngsters are getting the gist of the French tongue.

Farewell To Starlings

According to a report published in a scientific magazine, scientific know-how at long last has caught up with the English Starling, that chattering, impudent, and persistent bird which hitherto has defied all attempts of his unwilling hosts to send him about his business. The method finally arrived at by two Pennsylvania State University professors is so simple that one wonders why it was not tried long ago. A number of the birds were captured at night (by what means the report does not say) and held by the legs until they set forth such an unearthly shriek that their brothers and sisters made off from the trees and even from the barns for parts unknown. The professors then set about making records of the strange and terrifying sounds; on subsequent evenings the records were played over a loud speaker device with the result that in two nights more than 20 thousand of the birds were cleared from one roosting place.

The recordings, which have come to be known as "distress calls", are now standard means of combat all over the State, and the unfortunate starling will soon be extinct in that region. What will happen to the species, once the distress calls have become general over the continent, thus leaving them no place to lay their heads, is something the luckless creatures will have to figure out for themselves; at the moment their prospects are not too bright.

The professors who routed the starlings say that the same method in principle should work with mice, rats, and even moths; it is just a matter of getting the native shriek on tape-recordings. Maybe the savants are right; there is, however, a little detail to be worked out, namely, how to hold on to a rat's hind legs long enough to make him beg for mercy in loud anguished tones.

EDITORIAL NOTES

United States Secretary of Commerce Sinclair Weeks predicts that business will start to pick up in about a month. "I think the excise tax cuts just voted by the Senate and the House will become law early next week," he said Monday, "and these will provide the stimulus that business needs."

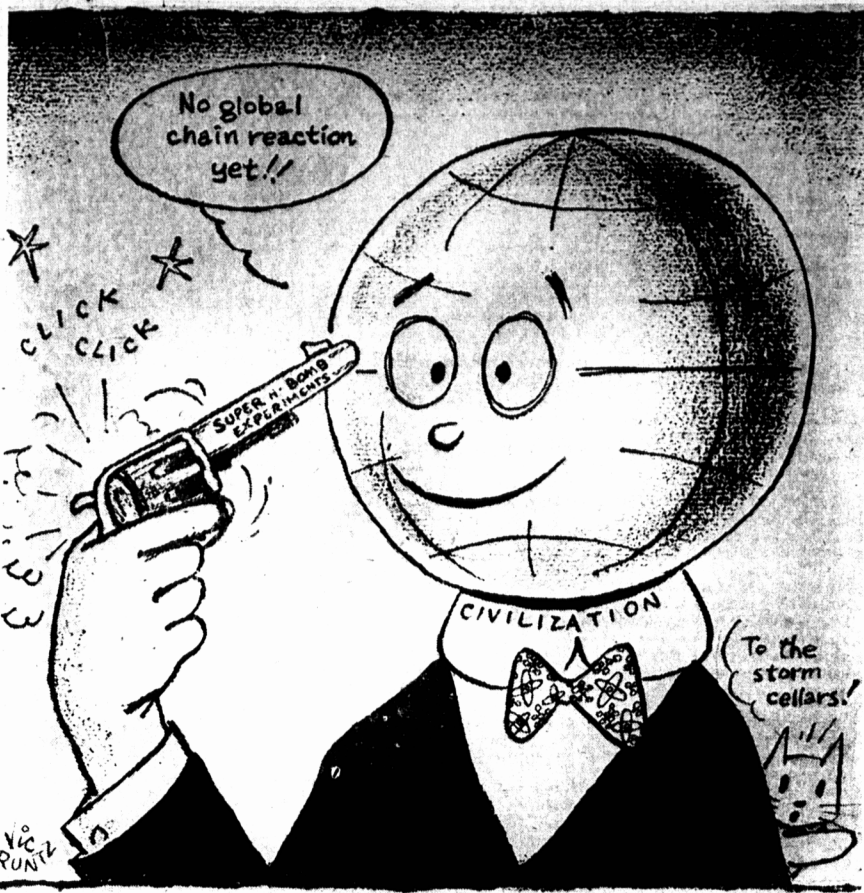
Transport Minister Chevrier's statement that the Government may have to give up operation of the fleet of passenger and cargo carriers serving this country and the Caribbean area has a gloomy sound to Maritime ears. It is well to consider that when this country again stands in need of a merchant fleet the cost of creating it overnight might make present losses seem negligible.

The advantage of majority decisions in international affairs is strikingly shown in the record of the Neutral Nations Repatriation Commission under the Korean armistice agreement. Throughout its existence the Commission's only unanimous decision was one of its earliest. That good will can make other systems work, however, is illustrated by NATO deliberations in which no vote is taken and the non-concurrence of any member means that no action will be taken until unanimity is reached.

A resting rabbit can withstand temperatures of 65 degrees below zero, according to a preliminary report by the National Research Council, division of applied biology. If the rabbit has to work, however, he will start to freeze at temperatures even 40 degrees warmer. A similar decrease in insulation during exercise was discovered in mice and lemmings. Stamping his feet to keep warm would apparently prove fatal to a bunny.

The report of the select standing committee on Education was presented to the Legislature yesterday, but according to the chairman in moving its adoption, it represents "an amalgamation of all opinions rather than the unanimous opinion of all." Such being the case, it is difficult to see how the House can deal with it. According to Beauchesne, minority reports are not permissible under Canadian practice. It must be clearly presented as a majority report. The House may then adopt it, reject it, refer it back to a revived committee with or without instructions, or give it the six months' hoist.

High Staked Russian Roulette



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.

DR. BENNETT'S ADDRESS

Sir,—My attention has just been directed to a letter in your issue of Monday, March 15, in which Mr. W. J. Enright offers his impressions of my address in Charlottetown on March 9. Especially at this date, the letter needs no rebuttal for anyone who knows me or for any unprejudiced person who heard me speak. Even the majority of your readers, who had to take Mr. Enright as their guide, could make their own allowance if they proceeded far enough to read his self-betraying statement that he knew what I would say before I began to speak.

There is so much prejudice and distortion in the account that I am supposed to have given of Dr. Neatby that some correction must be made, though I prefer to ignore the words used to interpret the general impression that I am alleged to have given. These are so far removed from anything I have said or thought that I will neither repeat nor refute.

Your correspondent said that I described Dr. Neatby as "a person who revelled in revealing the seamy side." This I take to be his paraphrase of my reminder that Dr. Neatby's subtitle (too often overlooked) indicated that she was deliberately writing an indictment. I said "She is counsel for the prosecution; let the defence look to itself." Your correspondent goes on to say that I attributed Dr. Neatby's success in debate "more to superior skill in dialectics than to the realities of her case." What I said was that Dr. Neatby was an excellent debater and that I felt sure that she regretted as much as I did that her opponents had not been able to meet her challenge with effective rebuttals. I did say that I felt that by taking an uncompromising position Dr. Neatby might lessen the good effect of her book and fall to win friends and influence people among the particular groups whose beliefs she was attacking. I did not say, and I believe no unprejudiced listener understood me to imply, that she was "rather freakish... than normal."

Rather than continue with the extravagant statements attributed to me by your correspondent, I will say that the very position that he berates me for taking in Charlottetown was taken by Dr. Neatby herself the next evening in Halifax. She said that it was necessary, after full and free discussion from both sides, to find a firmly balanced position between extremes; that she had years ago attempted to set forth such a balanced view and had not succeeded in attracting attention. Therefore, in view of the emphasis and publicity currently given to the "progressivist" point of view she had written her book from an extreme and uncompromising position in order to direct proper attention to another point of view. She also said, as I did, that her criticisms were least applicable to the Maritimes. Having made her case and gained her audience, she was willing, without abandoning her principles and beliefs, to give and take in a spirit of enlightened tolerance which I would respectfully commend to your correspondent.

Let there be any doubt, may I conclude by repeating that I believe Dr. Neatby has done a great service to Canadian education; and that while I do not accept as the whole truth (nor do I believe that she wishes anyone to accept) the extreme position that she took in her "indictment" I believe she has given her opposition a challenge that will call for some healthful self-examination. The opinions that I expressed

The Age Old Story

Charity never faileth: but whether there be prophecies, they shall cease; whether there be knowledge, it shall vanish away. . . . And now abideth faith, hope, charity, these three; but the greatest of these is charity.

In Charlottetown were consistent with those that I have spoken and written elsewhere. Comments from both "traditionalists" and "progressivists" have been more frequent and more favourable than I had expected. There has been some "friendly controversy" but I am happy to say that no where else have I encountered any suggestion of the animus that your correspondent professes to find in my attitude towards a book that with some reservations I greatly admire and whose opinions I believe that I have done something to support in some very practical ways.

I am, Sir, etc., C. L. BENNETT, Dalhousie University, Halifax, N. S., March 30.

THE ROCKY POINT PROBLEM

Sir,—In speaking a few days ago in the Legislative Assembly on the Rocky Point transportation problem and the proposed solution of a new bridge at Westville, Premier Matheson used the argument that a new bridge at Westville would be unfair to the rest of the Island seeing that the old West River bridge was only four miles from Westville,—an old bridge, I may say, that should have been built where it is now most logically proposed to build a new one.

The argument of fairness to the Island, however, is pre-eminently a right one, and it is refreshing to hear it now used in a Legislature where the influence of local politics has for long years been conspicuously evident. Premier Matheson, however, in dealing with the Rocky Point transportation problem has apparently failed to see that the argument of fairness to the whole Island tends wholly in favor of building a new bridge at Westville. One of the main bridges on our Island, and would serve daily and hourly a score of populous and prosperous districts situated, some north, and some south of West River—including the City of Charlottetown. It would in fact be a bridge of general use for Islanders travelling eastward and westward across the Island, and that, too, by a most passable and beautiful route.

Now what can Premier Matheson propose as a reasonable alternative solution to the Rocky Point and West River transportation problem? Nothing more or less than the old temporizing lumbering Rocky Point ferry that serves directly only four or five school districts, and whose service to the whole Island in general is almost negligible, notwithstanding the fact that the whole Island has got to pay for it. Let it be remembered, too, in fairness to Rocky Point and its adjacent districts, that this ferry service never gave satisfactory all year-round service. Nor will it ever do so unless it is provided with a super-powerful boat the cost of which together with its running and repair expenses would be grossly unfair to the taxpayers of the whole Island, to whom Premier Matheson now, I doubt not, wishes to be fair.

The Poet's Corner

"OUR FRIENDS GO WITH US . . ."

Our friends go with us as we go Down the long path where Beauty wends, Where all we love foregoeth, and Why should we fear to join our friends?

Who would survive them to outlast His children; to outwear his fame— Left when the Triumph has gone past— To win from Age, not Time, a name?

Then do not shudder at the knife That Death's indifferent hand drives home, But with the Strivers leave the Strife, Nor, after Caesar, skulk in Rome.

—Oliver St. John Gogarty.

farms. I have been told that even Premier Matheson was heard to suggest this solution in a recent private conversation. And truly, from a purely financial viewpoint the proposal might seem reasonable, but from a sentimental viewpoint it is likely to prove an unimpeachable idea with the Rocky Point residents, although (who knows?) it might provide material for another beautiful Acadian epic, not inferior to Longfellow's Evangeline.

Fortunately, there is now no need for the removal of the Rocky Point residents from their ancestral homes, for the majority of them, I understand, are now quite convinced that the existence of a bridge at Westville would in the main relieve them of their chief grievance, namely, the great disadvantage of their location during the ice-forming and ice-breaking periods of the year. A bridge at Westville would in fact put residents of Rocky Point and several other districts seven miles nearer to Charlottetown by road than the present West River bridge does, although Premier Matheson's statement would seem to imply only four miles nearer.

And again, the Rocky Point residents, I believe, now understand quite well that the existence of a bridge at Westville could by no means mean the total absence of some kind of reasonable ferry service at Rocky Point during the summer months. There is every reason to presume that a ferry service at Rocky Point during three or four months of summer ought to be practically self-supporting—chiefly by a daily stream of Charlottetown residents to what ought to be one of the most delightful suburban parks in Canada. Let me now say emphatically, that it is high time that our provincial legislature as a whole gave this Rocky Point-West River problem its most serious consideration, in all fairness not only to the Rocky Point-West River district, but in fairness to the whole Island. As a purely local political issue it offers little attraction at present to either party. The residents of West River electoral districts are now pretty much of the opinion that on this question Alex Matheson and Reggie Bell are six and a half dozen; although some say Reggie, in a former election, went one better than Alex ever did, hinting in fact at three suitable locations for a West River bridge. But these pre-election bridges are not half as good as one good sound post-election bridge, built in all fairness to Rocky Point and the whole Island. This project, pre-eminently, is one in which petty local politics should play little or no part. Let no one say it is not a serious proposition financially. It is, but let it be remembered that it is a splendid and practical solution to a most serious problem. On with the bridge!

I am, Sir, etc., M. McK., (An old West River resident)

Notes By The Way

People concentrate on marriage failures more than on failures who marry. — Hamilton Spectator. An astronomer says we have 85,000,000 years of sunshine left. Some people still insist on looking at the bright side of things.—Hamilton Spectator.

Interesting news for those interested in wild life is the fact that 32 caribou were observed in the Thunder Bay District last month. The count was taken by members of the Ontario Department of Lands and Forests on a flight made February 22. Whereas the caribou were thought to be disappearing, the animals appear to be increasing their numbers.—Fort William Times-Journal.

Parliament's faced with the biggest rush of divorce business in years. The business comes from two provinces, Quebec and Newfoundland, which have no divorce courts of their own. Applications on hand this session total 462. The Senate divorce committee—which does the lion's share of the work for parliament in this field—has been split into four sub-committees to handle the traffic. The rush of applications reflects a national wide trend. In 1953, Canada's divorce rate climbed from 39.1 per 100,000 to 41.0.—Montreal Gazette.

How many people in Western Ontario know that in the early days of this district the curlers in an effort to keep alive the roaring game used wooden "stones"? There is a wooden "stone" in the museum of Western Ontario which we obtained from an old home in Bayfield. In the pioneer days they curled on the Bayfield river. It was impossible to secure stones from Scotland. And so the blacksmiths of Bayfield made wooden "stones," which were properly weighted and lead or iron. A ring of iron held the wood together and gave the stones the proper bounce in curling.—London Free Press.

Deep at the root of most of the misery and conflict in the world today lies intolerance and prejudice, the twin evils that spring from selfishness and ignorance. Much has been written on the subject of tolerance, but its definition is simple—to give to other human beings those rights that one claims for oneself. At first glance this appears easy, but selfishness often intervenes and prevents its accomplishment. True tolerance is balanced delicately on discrimination. For if one has that easy-going temperament that so often passes for tolerance, then one might be accepting without offence all manner of evils that, far from being tolerated, should be vigorously opposed. When a person has constantly to remind himself that he must be toler-

ant, he obviously does not possess that quality as a virtue, but is in the process of acquiring it, for all true virtues are unconscious and not recognized by their possessors.—From an editorial for young People, Hamilton Spectator. Speakers frequently get their metaphors mixed. Perhaps the most famous mixed metaphor on record in the House of Commons is the one that came along some years ago when an MP declared indignantly: "If the government persists in ramming this thing down our throats they will have a long and rocky road to travel." This recalls that a Charlottetown mayor some years ago delivered himself of this statement: "I don't care whose ox is gored let the chips fall where they may." Then there was an Irishman who declared: "I smell a rat. I see him brewing in the air, but I shall yet nip him in the bud." Which reminds us of a Canadian parliamentarian who congratulated his political opponent in these words, "I am glad to see the old war-horse back in the saddle."—From Kitchener-Waterloo Record.

Old Charlottetown

(And F. M. L.)

HORSE-POWER THRESHER

"One of the long desired days has at length arrived—a day of great importance to the agriculture and prosperity of Prince Edward Island, and reflecting much credit on the genius of her natives. On Saturday last, Mr. Stephen Boyer completed his very simple, but very efficient horse-power; which, being erected at Mr. Bourke's, Lot 49, was attached to a threshing machine and tested with a quantity of oats. Mr. B. was highly gratified with its capabilities, so much so, that he had planned to purchase the ingenious mechanic the price of his useful labour. The power and its speed are said to fully equal that of the machine imported at great cost from Boston, and will not take up much more space.

"The inventor, who intends to apply for a patent, will warrant the power to work for seven years and such is its simplicity, that in case of accident, the commonest mechanic could repair it. Now, without erecting expensive buildings, we can now stow away in small compass, a machine that will thresh, cut chaff, winnow grain, or drive any machine that can be brought to it. It is hoped that Mr. Boyer, or some other person, will soon put the farmers of the Colony in possession of a good and efficient chaff cutting machine, which would be equal to increasing fodder one half."

—Royal Gazette Aug. 8, 1837.

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