

THE GUARDIAN

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

CHARLOTTETOWN, THURSDAY, APRIL 23, 1953

Censorship Problems

It should not cause too much surprise that a publisher, one of the final witnesses before the Senate committee on salacious literature, should have suggested both that the printing of books from imported plates be stopped and that the Government establish some form of board to which publishers could refer a proposed publication for a ruling on fitness for sale and distribution in Canada.

Prohibiting the use of plates produced outside this country would increase the cost of those books published in Canada, subsequent to publication elsewhere. It would probably result in the books themselves being imported in many cases, rather than the printing plates. This would, of course, make them subject to censorship on admission to Canada but it would also add considerably to the cost of books in this country.

Contrary to popular impression, many book publishers who are apt to be businessmen first, would approve of censorship of manuscripts before publication. It would relieve them of the problem of deciding what is and is not publishable. It would also save them from loss on books which might be banned after all the expense of publication and from the legal consequences of publishing anything which might be ruled indecent.

The protection of publishers, however, is not the object of Parliament. A board of censors who could decide what Canadians may or may not read would place all in the category of the immature whose choice of reading material must be decided for them. How many are content to let someone else make that decision is open to question. Certainly a profound scholar would be justly indignant to be told that he could not decide such questions for himself.

Curbing State Expenses

The London Times summarizes the experiences of the British people with waste under the state medicine policy in effect there. The Labor Government started off by making everything free. This led to waste of facilities and money. In an attempt to curb abuses under the health plan in Britain the Churchill Government imposed a system of co-operative charges for certain services. First, the British were required to pay a small sum towards the cost of spectacles and dentures. (At the start, these were issued free). More recently the co-operative charges have been applied to other dental care, to prescriptions for drugs and certain medical appliances.

The proof of the extravagance, abuse and waste that cannot be separated from state systems of insurance is demonstrated in the results of the co-operative payments policy in England. The savings that resulted from the policy are shown in the following table:

Table with 4 columns: Year (1950-51, 1951-52, 1952-53), Ophthalmic, Dental, Prescriptions. Values range from 21.9 to 40.9 million pounds.

The revenues from the charges, the shillings for prescriptions, etc., did not add up to produce the savings shown. The savings resulted from the fact that many thousands of people in Britain who had no need of these services at all were demanding them simply because they were free. The misuse was so widespread that the tiny co-operative charges were able to bring about the enormous savings indicated by the table.

Worst Kind Of Treason

The recommended change in the Criminal Code having to do with treason in "peace" time is something of more than passing interest, notes the Montreal Gazette. The measure suggested by the Commons' Criminal Law Committee calls for a charge of treason with possible death penalty for one who gives to a foreign state major military or scientific information, as, for instance, atomic secrets. The Senate had recommended that this type of information in peace time be withdrawn from the category of treason and made subject to a pen-

alty of 14 years imprisonment. In approving the provision the committee reinserted the clause in somewhat modified form.

This recommended change is in keeping with a striking and confusing alteration in the relationships between nations. The question arises: What is peace? Twenty years ago the normal answer would have been that if there is no war there must be peace. But the times are not normal and nations do not approach war in a manner which would have been normal two decades ago. Who can doubt that Soviet Russia is making war in Korea and in Indo-China, although she may not have a single Russian soldier in either field of conflict? Is this situation susceptible of being classified as peace? The casualty lists and the pocketbooks of taxpayers refute any such proposition. History still has to ascertain and record the lethal damage done by spies and traitors giving secret information to the Russians in Canada and elsewhere in the Western World. It may yet prove enormous.

"Justice Minister Garson," says The Gazette, "will have many supporters throughout the country in regarding this specific sort of betrayal 'the worst kind of treason.' Opposition to such a measure as that recommended is difficult to understand under the circumstances."

EDITORIAL NOTES

English flowers being shipped to Ottawa and British Columbia flowers to Montreal open new vistas in trade. Practically no distance is too great for shipping perishables if transportation and storage facilities are adequate.

In 1952 the U. S. consumed 8.5 pounds of butter per capita and 7.7 pounds of margarine. In 1951, the figures were 9.6 pounds of butter and 6.5 pounds of margarine; and before World War II they were 16.7 pounds of butter and 2.9 pounds of margarine.

If there is one group more than another from which future leaders should be sought it is the children of servicemen and ex-servicemen. The bill to provide university education for children of deceased members of the armed forces is a measure of justice to the children and an invaluable investment for the nation.

There are no non-farm homes in this Province having a second mortgage according to census returns. Of 4,160 rural homes 875 are mortgaged and of 2,060 urban homes 860 are mortgaged. This is a higher proportion of mortgages for rural non-farm dwellings than for the whole of Canada but considerably less than average for urban dwellings.

Veterans' Land Act officials heard depressing views on the trend of rural population in the Maritimes. So far as the decline reflects dissatisfaction with economic and living conditions, every effort must be made to make farming more attractive. In part, however, the trend results from the enlarging of individual holdings and is rather an advantage than otherwise.

Justice Minister Garson has indicated that the Government is prepared to set up a Royal Commission or parliamentary committee to study possible abolition of capital punishment and whipping and revision of the legal definition of insanity. All of these are of ancient vintage and have been under attack in this country and elsewhere. A thorough study of the problems is certainly in order.

St. George's Day. In the name of St. George and Merrie England Englishmen have slain many dragons. It has been their characteristic that while territory, trade or riches may have resulted from their enterprise these have been more or less incidental to the really important thing which is adventure. That is what seemed strange about England's experiment with the Welfare State—a nation of adventurers rather self-consciously concerned with security.

William Shakespeare, English dramatist and poet, was born and died this date 1564 and 1616. He married at 18 and within another ten years had established a reputation as an actor and playwright. Little is known of his life, although much has been written of it. Many ingenious arguments have been made that his plays were really the work of others, mainly on the presupposition that a young man from Stratford on Avon could not possibly have possessed the knowledge or intellect to enable him to produce such marvellous works. His plays were written for a theatre long since vanished, in which there were no scenes to change and the players were practically in the midst of their audience.

Notes From Another Island

By "Anson"

LONDON, England:-

After following the dictates of habit and expecting the worst from Mr. Butler's Budget what did we find? It was almost unbelievably lenient. There seemed to be something pleasant for everybody, and the Parliamentary Opposition were hard put to it to find any serious grounds for criticism. They did, of course. It is their job to do, but one suspects that they must have criticised without a great deal of conviction, an simply in accordance with the tenet that "it is the duty of the Opposition to oppose". Some of the arguments were undoubtedly valid. It is difficult for any man, least of all perhaps a Chancellor of the Exchequer, to please everybody in a nation of fifty million people, or even in other respects the critics were taking on very thin ice indeed.

Surely it is a poor heart that does not rejoice over something which is wholly beneficial. For this is just what this 1953 Budget is. It is the first since the war not to contain any new or increased forms of taxation. Hitherto, any relief we have gained have been at the expense of increased demands on us in other forms. True it may be that a change is as good as a rest, but anyone can be excused for not being overjoyed at a change that simply results in our money being taken out of one pocket instead of another. As his contribution to the spirit of Coronation year Mr. Butler has shown to it that a little less of our cash is extracted from any pocket.

Nor is it only in Income Tax that our burden has been eased (be it ever so slightly). That scourge of post-war Britain, the Purchase Tax, has been reduced (again, albeit in a modest way). On some luxury articles this tax had been a straight one hundred per cent. Jewellery was one item that suffered in this way; now its tax is reduced to a mere seventy-five, and by this act of clemency Mr. Butler may, still in the spirit of the times, have done something to restore a little of the chivalry associated with former Elizabethan days. For, hitherto, many a love-sick young blade has had to perform to buy his betrothed a second-hand engagement ring in order to avoid the bankrupting effect of the tax on a new one.

Private motor-cars, which somehow just managed to escape the stigma of being classified "luxuries", now have the Purchase Tax on them reduced to fifty per cent. One illuminating example of what this means is evident in the fact that one highly specialized model may now be obtained for a trifle less than six thousand pounds (or, in round figures, about twenty thousand dollars). However, even at the reduced price it is doubtful if the makers are anticipating a rush on orders!

But let us not be ungrateful, for there are reductions all along the line of necessity, so that living is made just that little bit less expensive for us all. Some items even have preferential treatment; their Purchase Tax has been reduced to quite a drastic extent. One such item cannot go unmentioned: umbrellas. Purchase Tax on umbrellas has been reduced from sixty-six-and-two-thirds to a mere twenty-five per cent. Now practically everybody can afford one. Evidently Mr. Butler, showing a touch of humanity not often credited to Chancellors of the Exchequer, is bent on giving us all the opportunity to protect ourselves against the vagaries of the English summer.

The Poet's Corner

FROM EACH AND ALL

All are needed by each one: Nothing is fair or good alone. I thought the sparrow's note from heaven. Singing at dawn on the alder bough; I brought him home, in his nest, at even; He sings the song, but it cheers me now, he sings to me. For I did not bring home the river and sky;— He sang to my ear,—they sang to my eye. The delicate shells lay on the shore;— The bubbles of the latest wave Fresh pearls to their enamel gave, And the following of the savage sea Greeted their safe escape to me. I wiped away the weeds and foam, I fetched my sea-born treasures home; But the poor, unsightly, noisome things Had left their beauty on the shore, With the sun and the sand and the wild uproar.

—Ralph Waldo Emerson.

The Age-Old Story

Wherewith shall I come before the Lord, and bow myself before the high God? Shall I come before him with burnt offerings, with calves of a year old? He hath showed these, O man, what is good, and what doth the Lord require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy and to walk humbly with thy God?

Reaching It Together



The Real Soviet Purpose

(New York Times)

The real objective of the latest Soviet "peace offensive" for which Moscow is apparently willing to pay a price in tactical concessions elsewhere, is beginning to emerge. This objective, hidden behind an ostensible drive for German unification and neutralization, is a reversal of the growing unification of Western Europe as manifested in the European Coal and Steel Community, the projected European Defence Community, and the proposed European Parliament, and a renewed disintegration of the Continent into separate and potentially hostile states unable to stand on their own feet politically, economically or militarily.

Should such disintegration take place again, there would be little to stop the Kremlin from extending its domination over the whole Continent, and that would put Russia's disposal of a war potential which would make it not merely equal but actually superior to the United States. The new Soviet drive along these lines began in March, shortly after the decisive lower house vote of the West German Parliament ratifying the new European treaty system, when General Chulikov, Soviet commander in East Germany, issued a letter urging a four-Power conference to prepare a German peace treaty and to create a "united, independent, democratic and peace-loving German state." At the same time General Chulikov began to clear the atmosphere for such a conference by arranging a four-Power meeting to discuss air safety over Germany to avert further air incidents.

Now this first bid has been followed up by Walter Ulbricht, Deputy Premier and "boss" of Eastern Germany, but also a Red Army colonel and the Kremlin's German spokesman, who in the name of Soviet Russia and in the official Soviet newspaper has renewed the call for a full dress four-Power conference on Germany and demands that the United States show its readiness to accept. Further moves in the same

PUBLIC FORUM

This column is open to the discussion by correspondents of any question of interest. The Guardian does not necessarily endorse the opinion of correspondents.

HEBRIDEAN REUNION

Sir,—This is a call to natives or their descendants of the island of North and South Uist and Barra in the Outer Hebrides, Scotland. During the year many of your readers will be visiting the home country for the Coronation celebrations. The Uist and Barra Association have decided to mark this special occasion by bringing together all connected with our islands.

A "Uist and Barra" reunion has been arranged for 10th June, 1953, and will take place in the Highlanders' Institute, 27, Elmbank Street, Glasgow, C. 2. It will take the form of a Ceilidh night of piping, singing and dancing. All artists taking part will be in some way or other connected with our islands, and as admitted visitors will be strictly confined to members of the Association and overseas visitors. It is hoped that by this means our overseas brothers and sisters will feel at home and by personal contact gain news of their friends and of their particular island.

The Association is proud of our kinsfolk overseas for we know that they have helped greatly in the development of their country of adoption and have been a credit to the islands they left.

At home we are happy to say that the Association is prospering well and that it is one of the foremost of Highland Societies in the country. We are striving hard to preserve our island culture, its music, literature and language. We have by no means attained perfection in the way we are tackling this job, but we have faith in our objects and confidence that we can fulfil them.

The years may have gone by, but visitors will find that our island hospitality has not changed. We will welcome them with open arms and help to make their stay here a happy one. We hope to enable those of Highland birth or descent to recapture the atmosphere of the Highland life which they knew in their youth or make them realise by personal experience just what they have helped to give. If they had heard from their parents, if possible the writer would like to hear in advance from those who intend to visit us. However, if natives or their descendants of Uist and Barra are unable to come over this year we hope they will send us a message giving us details of their place of birth, etc. Any message of goodwill will be read to the assembled company on the evening of the reunion.

Needless to say, we will also welcome overseas visitors who belong to other parts of Gaidem. "Ceud Mile Fàilte." I am, Sir, etc. CALUM M. MACLELLAN Hon. Secretary Uist and Barra Association

Old Charlottetown

And P. E. I.

THE LAW'S DELAY

From an address by Mr. J. C. Pope in the Legislature, Feb. 12, 1934, in support of a bill to extend the jurisdiction of the Small Debt Commissioners:

"The delays that have hitherto prevailed in our Courts of Law have now arrived at such a pitch as to amount to almost a denial of justice. To remedy this crying evil an Act was passed in 1933, constituting the October term an assuable term for the trial of civil causes only; but this change has tended to increase the evil without realizing any of those advantages which were anticipated to accrue. It is well known that the average costs on suits in the Small Debt Courts do not exceed the sum of ten shillings, while those on summary causes in the Supreme Court are seldom less than from ten to twenty pounds.

"It sometimes happens that a suitor gains his cause, but even then he wins a loss, and his attorney very politely hands in his bill as between attorney and client, which if the latter objects to be fore he can have it taxed. He is required to give his obligation to pay such sum as may be allowed the unfortunate is then informed that although there is a Fee Act on the Statute Book, yet it does not embrace all the services charged by his attorney; therefore he must submit to what has been the practice heretofore, no matter how exorbitant such charges may be. Little better than proceeding to give a receipt for highway robbery, and ought not any longer to be tolerated.

"A great deal has been said about trial by Jury, and the advantage of having Counsel — but where is the man that would not rather submit a ten pound case to the decision of two Justices of Peace or Commissioners, to be determined without delay, and at a trifling expense, rather than be entangled in a law suit and have to dance attendance at the Supreme Court for perhaps three or four years before he can get even a hearing? But the evil does not rest here, for if he is possessed of any property he is sure to be fleeced before he can make his escape. I speak from experience, and should but ill discharge that duty which it owes to the country, were I not to support a measure which I think is calculated to lessen one of the greatest evils that ever was inflicted on any community."

Notes By The Way

Hon. "Mike" Pearson warns that the West should keep her guard up but should not miss any chance to ease world tensions. Sounds like the International Boxing Club. —Windsor Star.

Tornadoes have a droll sense of humor. The other day one blew a man half a mile through the air and set him down gently in the direction will undoubtedly follow, and General Chulikov is already reported under orders to draft new unification proposals for Germany.

Mr. Ulbricht declares that the Soviets have paved the way for such a conference by "supporting" the Chinese and North Korean overtures for ending the Korean war. If the end of that war can be achieved thereby, the West might well take advantage of the Kremlin's willingness to make concessions on what it might now regard as minor issues, and we might even press for more, especially in the matter of the Austrian treaty, and in respect to the new Communist aggression against Laos. It is even possible that the Soviets might now be willing to make far greater concessions on Germany, even in the matter of free elections on which the West insists, in order to further their aims.

But Mr. Ulbricht leaves no doubt as to what these aims are. The first big objective, he says, is to kill off West Germany's "illegal" treaties of military and political alliance with the Western Powers, which means the Schuman Plan and the European Army pact calling for a German contribution to the same. This would also mean the collapse of all further European unification moves and would open the way for a Soviet conquest of the Continent without the Soviets firing a shot. It would be folly to underestimate the impact of the Soviet move. Unification has a powerful appeal to all Germans, and some, like the Socialists, are willing to pursue it on almost any terms. On the other hand, neutralization of Germany carries an equally powerful appeal to all those who fear a future Germany more than they fear the present Russia. These elements which still block ratification of the European Army plan, are especially powerful in France, and the Soviets can be expected to play up to them.

For that reason it is gratifying to hear a French statesman raise his voice again to warn that neither Soviet will nor the adherents of the old order should be allowed to stop the march of history to a united Europe. That voice belongs to Rene Pleven, French Minister of Defence, who, speaking at the University of North Carolina, declared that the youth of Europe has found the old house of Europe wanting and stands behind the architects of unification who want to build a new house on the same principles that have proved their vitality and durability in the United States.

We were frankly very amazed and disappointed when we saw vacant seats in the theatre for the performance of "Hamlet." We had many times seen these seats occupied when the main attraction at the Lethbridge theatre was a second-rate horse opera or a third-rate Hollywood musical. Yet, there they were empty when the main attraction was what is considered by many experts the greatest play ever written. If Lethbridge does not get any more professional theatre, it only has itself to blame. —Lethbridge Herald.

The Agriculture Department announces the "most important discovery in years" in the dehydration of food — a method of concentrating orange juice into dry powder which tastes like fresh orange juice when water is added. Department researchers are confident that the process can be used to turn out tomato, asparagus, broccoli and other vegetables and fruit in a powdered form. This would enable shoppers to ship their weekly grocery purchases — individually packaged in tiny envelopes — into their pockets. Prices would be cheaper, too. —Detroit Free Press.

The optical industry is now up to quadrifocals, which may be wonderful, but can't help sighing for a calmer time when there weren't so many directions that needed to be looked in. —Winnipeg Tribune.

A Spanish journal describes an ideal wife as being as dependable as a clock, as attached to her house as a snail, and, like an echo, speaking only when she is spoken to. However, she should not, like the echo, always have the last word. —Toronto Star.

Russia has asked the United States to drop its demand in the United Nations for an impartial investigation of Chinese charges that germ warfare has been waged in Korea. The original Chinese charges appear to have been made largely for propaganda purposes. The U. S. demand is a counter-propaganda move. In the new circumstances created since the Communists started their peace overtures, both the Chinese charge and the U. S. demand might well be dropped. —Ottawa Citizen.

The Fort William boy who has just reached school age brought a rusty old gun into the house. The piece had long since fired the last shot it would ever fire. "Where did you get that thing?" the boy's father asked. "I got it in a frame with Bobbie in the next block." "What did you give him for it?" "Thirty-five marbles." "Thirty-five? Where did you get all those marbles?" "I only had 18," the boy explained. "But Bobbie can't count yet." —Fort William Times-Journal.

PROFESSIONAL CARDS

Grid of professional cards for various services including Optometrists, Barristers, Solicitors, Dentists, and Chartered Accountants.