

THE GUARDIAN

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An Age-Old Issue

The benefits conferred by the Freedom of the Press have been so long enjoyed by the people of this Province and country that they tend nowadays to be taken for granted. Recent world history teaches that this freedom is by no means part of the established order of things, but must be fought for vigorously in the first place, and maintained by constant vigilance. In all totalitarian forms of government, newspapers are the first victims of suppression. Under Communism they survive only as servile mouthpieces of the state, and the same was true under the Fascist and Nazi regimes long before the outbreak of the last world war. Democracy without free speech is unthinkable, and free speech without the printed word is speedily forgotten.

Even in this little Province, the records show that the newspapers have been in the van of every movement by which the conditions of the people have been improved. The first Island newspaper, 'The Royal Commercial Gazette and Intelligencer', was started in 1787 and rendered great service by its publication of the terms offered by Governor Fanning to the Empire Loyalists and by the means it afforded for agitation of Loyalist claims upon the proprietors for grants of land. A few years later, in 1801, newspaper agitation was largely responsible for establishing the first Postal Service in the Island. A great battle for democracy was fought by the 'Prince Edward Island Register', established in 1823 by James Douglas Haszard, against the autocratic rule of Governor Smith, and it was continued vigorously by 'The Examiner' under Edward Whelan, and by other newspapers, until self-government was obtained in 1851. In the meantime, other grievances found free and untrammelled utterance in the newspapers of the day, resulting in 1830 in the removal of all civic disabilities on Roman Catholic subjects and the establishment of the first non-sectarian Board of Education, later in successive Land Settlement Bills which freed our farmers from the yoke of absentee landlordism, and later still in the popular franchise, the secret ballot, and other reforms.

So conscious was the Legislature of this Province of the importance of the freedom of the Press that in 1843, while the battle for responsible government was being waged, it strongly recommended the free carriage of newspapers through the mails, as a facility which 'ought to be afforded for the transmission of general information', and as an arrangement which 'would not cause any diminution of the revenue at all commensurate with the advantages that would be thereby conferred on the public.'

Today the newspapers of Canada which are dependent on postal carriers are threatened with being taxed out of existence by exorbitant post office rates. This blow is directed not at the big metropolitan papers with huge street sales and truck deliveries in large industrial areas, but at the smaller papers which are an integral part of the rural and urban communities they serve, and in which local interests are given first and foremost place. It is to be hoped that the bill introduced by Postmaster General Rinfret in the House of Commons imposing a rates boost of over 166 per cent on papers of this kind, will be reconsidered. In any case it is essential that the public realize what is at stake, and be reminded of how it came about that we have parliaments at all in this country responsible to the common people.

Sikkim And Bhutan

Sikkim lies in the south slopes of the Himalayas, with Bhutan to the east and wedged in by Chumbi, Bengal and Nepal. To the north lies Tibet.

Bhutan is independent and Sikkim loosely linked with India. Formerly England controlled all foreign relations of Sikkim and was represented there by a political officer. Since the transfer of power in India in August 1947 the Indian Constituent Assembly entered into negotiations with Sikkim and by an interim agreement the Indian Government sent a representative to stay at Gangtok and he is responsible for relations with Sikkim, Tibet and Bhutan.

Now, out of a blue sky, Pravda charges that Britain unlawfully took the province and principedom from Tibet in 1890. The official Communist party newspaper seems

to be preparing the way to extend Communist domination south of Tibet. Perhaps the fact that two high passes for trade between Tibet and Bengal lie in Sikkim provides the inducement for the move. India's northern frontier has never been notably peaceful but now it looks downright dangerous.

The King's Birthday

Although His Majesty King George VI was born on December 14, 1895, he has, ever since coming to the Throne, decreed the official observance of his birthday generally on the first Monday in June. Thus, on June 4 the celebration of his natal day will take place with all the formal observance traditionally associated with the occasion, Canadians joining with his peoples in all parts of the British Commonwealth and Empire in demonstrating their loyalty and affection to the Sovereign.

His Majesty has shared in full the sacrifices and the austerity required during the war and post-war years, and with the Queen and Royal Family has set an inspiring example of devoted service to the common weal. His official birthday on Monday once again points the reality of the unity of interests that maintains the Commonwealth, of which he is the living symbol, serving to make this occasion a world-wide family celebration, and a reminder of the still wider associations that bind us, in these critical days, to freedom loving nations everywhere.

EDITORIAL NOTES

The school for rural choirs at Montague is in line with the provincial dramatic clubs already so successfully launched.

Tomorrow is Shut-ins Day, a reminder to visit and perhaps seek encouragement from as well as encourage those kept indoors by ill-health.

Crow hunting should take its place as an outdoor sport. The birds are as wily as any game and the bounty makes up for their lack of eating qualities.

The absurdity of the Bureau of Statistics delving back in its files and finding out that whereas in 1920 pure lard sold for 38c per lb., today it costs 33c. Much comfort that is to dairy farmers faced with butter competition.

The possibility of obtaining some defence contracts here should be vigorously pursued. Every such job means that defence production is that much advanced without moving workers and their families to localities where housing and facilities are already strained.

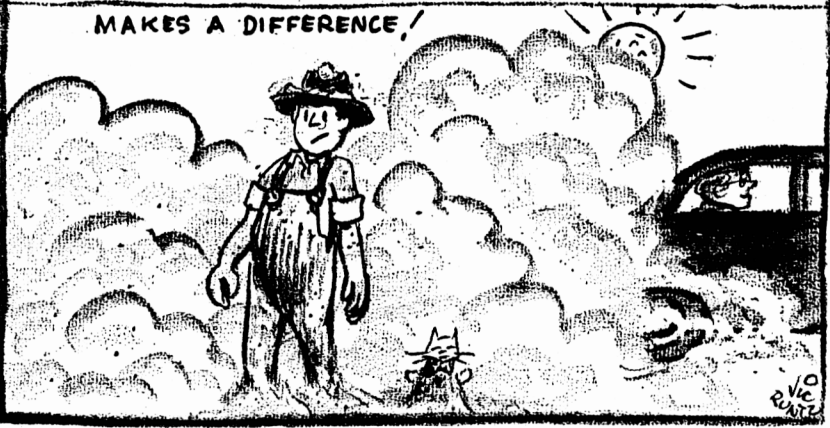
Thomas Hardy, English novelist, was born this date 1840. On the publication of his first masterpiece, 'Far From The Madding Crowd' he abandoned architecture for literature. His long series of novels, full of local colour made Wessex as familiar a literary country as Arcadia. He died in 1928.

Mr. J. L. Robertson, the adjudicator of the Provincial Drama Festival, has made good in that position, and has rightly received commendation from all concerned. It is pleasant after acting as critic, both in a complimentary and fault-finding capacity, to receive such generous approval of services rendered. His suggestion that a professional adviser should be engaged to assist and advise amateur drama clubs is well worth acting upon.

Messrs. H. H. Hatfield, W. Chester S. McLure and Frank T. Stanfield have made strong appeals in the House of Commons for a fairer deal for our Maritime potato growers. They point to the more than generous treatment which the wheat growers of Western Canada have received and emphasize that while the potato marketing plan in Prince Edward Island and New Brunswick is working well, our farmers have no assurance as to what initial payment they will receive for their 1951 crop. All they are asking for is 'fair treatment clear across Canada for our primary producers,' and that is surely something on which all the members will agree.

In the January issue of The British Quarterly Review there is a delightful article by Sir Shane Leslie, Bt., including excerpts from the journal of Mrs. Crawford, a disciple and adopted daughter of Cardinal Manning. Appropriate to the present occasion here, is the following extract: 'July 5th, 1890. I asked the Cardinal what was the good of saying one's prayers when one did so perfectly mechanically and feeling utterly indifferent on the subject. He said: 'If you ask me what the immediate good to yourself is, I can't tell you, although it does you good in the long run, but that is not exactly the question. The question is—is it right? Don't trouble yourself about the reason of a thing or the good of anything, but, if you know it is right, that ought to be a sufficient reason.'

Life By The Side Of The Road



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.

TAGGING AGAINST SCOUT RULES

Sir,—It has been drawn to our attention that boys representing themselves as Scouts were tagging in Montreal recently. Their action in so doing was strictly against the policy and rules of The Boy Scouts Association, and I would appreciate your publishing this letter for the advice and benefit of the public. Up to last year this Association held a Peanut Day on the second Saturday in June. A 'tag day' would be against the rules of the association as 'reasonable value' must be given in any such collection. In view of the fact that the Association now conducts an annual financial campaign, the Peanut Day canvass was dropped; and whoever made or makes such an appeal as Scouts or Boy Scouts did and does so without the authorization of The Boy Scouts Association. Use of the term Boy Scouts is protected by law, and such use is restricted to bona-fide registered members. Furthermore, Scouts may not take part in street sales or collections for other institutions, but may assist as messengers if so authorized by the Association.

C. J. DENDY, Executive Commissioner, Montreal, May 26.

DO YOU KNOW A NORTH NOVA VETERAN?

Sir,—Is there a veteran of the North Nova Scotia Highlanders in your community? If so, will you kindly tell him that work is under way on a History of his unit, and that we need material from him. Tell him to send in a story of his experiences with the battalion in the fighting of 1944 and 1945. Each veteran had a different experience. Each man had some exciting and unique experience. We need stories of the first fighting at Buron and beyond, of the attack on Cap Gris Nez, of the fighting at Tilly on July 25, of happenings at the Palaise Gap, of the pillbox fighting at Boulogne and Cap Gris Nez, of experiences at the Schelde. We want stories of ditch-crawling exploits during the Polder fighting, tales about dikes and farms, stories of patrols and prisoners, of booty, traps and snipers, of night attacks, of driving jeeps and carriers. Tell the veteran not to worry much about actual dates and correct place names. These can be ascertained. We do want as many names of comrades as possible, and we want them to tell what they saw—chateaux, slit trenches, trees, burned tanks, civilians, cattle, etc.; what they heard—shells and planes and night noises in the wheat; what they felt—the cold and the heat and the rain and mild concussion from near-misses.

Every man who saw action has some worth while incident to relate, and incidents must bulk largely in a true picture of the unit. If each veteran will help we can have a book of which Nova Scotia will be proud, a story of all phases of the many actions in which the North Novas took part. We want the unusual, the serious, the funny, the heroic, the grim hard endurance. Please send all contributions to me. I am, Sir, etc. WLL R. BIRD Box 503 Halifax, N. S.

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Minister's Life

(St. Thomas Times-Journal)

Seeing a photograph of a minister, pipe in mouth in a newspaper, a Nova Scotia woman wrote to him and reproached him for smoking. She did not like to see men smoking any way, and she felt he was setting a bad example to the younger generation. In his reply the minister, who has been a pipe smoker for 40 years, said: 'Ministers can be too 'ministerial,' and I suppose that is sometimes true of me. I wish it weren't. We shall never be able to interpret Christ and His Church to people of today unless we come down from any pedestal that the past generation have set up for our accommodation and this idea that we should not smoke a pipe like other men is such a pedestal. 'Most of us realize that smoking is a sign of human frailty, but then we know we are just as frail as other men. Most of us are trying to do our job to the best of our ability, and it worries us somewhat that people expect us to be what, in fact, we are not.'

There are some denominations that explicitly require this clergy to abjure tobacco, playing cards, going to the theatre and several other pleasures that laymen may do in moderation. There has been a good deal of relaxation of these restrictions on personal conduct in recent years, and the sight of a minister doing any of these things no longer surprises, or shocks, as it used to do in days gone by. It is no reflection upon his sincerity as a minister, still less upon his capacity to preach a fine sermon and give comfort to the sick. After all, ministers are human, and there is no reason why they should be denied pleasures in moderation that other men enjoy. There is such a thing as this pastor says in being 'too ministerial.' Even the clerical collar—we wonder who thought up the idea of making a minister wear his collar back to front, and why—awes some men who are just a

little scared of that symbol. It seems to create a gap between them. So if a minister can modify that 'ministerial' aura a bit and share with the members of his church pleasures that, logically speaking should be regarded as sinful for a minister, he can get much nearer the menfolk at any rate and be a good companion among them if he is not eternally elevated to a pedestal which the ordinary man does not expect to attain, and does not want to.

The Poet's Corner

HOPE

Hope is the thing with feathers That perches in the soul, And sings the tune without the words, And never stops at all.

And sweetest in the gale is heard; And sore must be the storm That could abash the little bird That kept so many warm.

I've heard it in the chilliest land, And on the strangest sea; Yet, never, in extremity, It asked a crumb of me.

—Emily Dickinson.

Old Charlottetown

(And P. E. I.) IRISH SETTLERS

'Two hundred and six settlers arrived in the Corsair from Greenock on Wednesday last. The bulk of them have proceeded up the Hillsborough about ten miles, to be located on the south bank, above Johnston's River, on the property of the Rev. John MacDonald. They are chiefly natives of the North Ireland, and apparently seemed pleased with their change. Two births occurred since their arrival, and one of the crew was lost off one of the yards in a gale.' —Prince Edward Island Register, May 25, 1830.

MONTREAL, June 1 — (CP) — The American dollar today closed at 7 3/16 per cent premium to the Canadian dollar, up 1/4 from Thursday's close. The pound sterling was \$3.00 1/2, up 1/16 from Thursday.

Allison M. Gillis, LL.B. BARRISTER, SOLICITOR, Etc. 130 Richmond St. - Ch'town. Phone 590

The Age-Old Story

Wherefore David blessed the Lord before all the congregation; and David said, Blessed be thou, Lord God of Israel our father, for ever and ever. Thine, O Lord, is the greatness, and the power, and the majesty; for all that is in the heaven and in the earth is thine; thine is the kingdom, O Lord, and thou art exalted as head above all. Both riches and honor come of thee, and thou reignest over all; and in thine hand is power and might; and in thine hand it is to make great, and to give strength unto all. Now therefore, our God, we thank thee, and praise thy glorious name.

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Notes By The Way

Right during the glory of Blossom Week, The Ottawa Journal chirped that the peach crop of 1951 had not been ruined to date. Why bless your soul, out Jordan, way, they are starting to thin them out. — St. Catherine's Journal.

'It is easy to explain the universe; it evolved from a single master atom,' said a physicist. No doubt — and man — an extraordinarily wise being who, with the greatest of ease, can explain any mystery by the simple expedient of attributing it to another mystery. — Kingston Whig-Standard.

The master of the Russian confession technique, Colonel-General Ulrich, is dead. He it was who perfected the system by which virtually all persons brought before a Communist tribunal pleaded guilty to all sorts of offences and, apparently, gladly went to their death rather than submit to further tortures. Let us hope that no monuments are put up to such men as Colonel-General Ulrich. — Niagara Falls Review.

Most doctors are as attentive as they can be even to unreasonably fussy and chronic nuisance patients. The men of the profession do not care to take chances. On the other side, having in mind the many calls made on a doctor's time and skill, patients or their relatives might make things easier for all concerned by exercising a bit of thoughtful intelligence, as, for instance, by not calling a doctor out in the middle of the night or even at his meal hour unless a real emergency exists. This intelligence, fortunately, is exercised in the great majority of cases. Besides, the telephone is a convenient aid for quick consultation and advice, and a brief conversation with the doctor can often allay alarm and conserve effort. — Brantford Expositor.

The court of the Bank of England has issued a handsomely illustrated and wittily written brochure, telling the story of the Bank's development 'over two and a half centuries... in a typically British way into something quite different from what it was to start with.' The brochure is designed for Festival visitors to the city but one suspects that some of the sidelights in it — such as why the bank's messengers wear pink tail-coats (they are in the private servants' livery of the first government) or the reason for the wind-vane in the court room (which is there to forecast arrivals of sailing ships in the Port of London and with it the probable variations in the day's demand for money) will be of interest to some of our visitors' hosts. — London Economist.

A news item quotes a New Hampshire state conservation officer to the effect that hamburger steak is the best trout lure. According to him, he held a spoonful above the surface of a pond and the fish tugged it so hard they almost pulled him into the water. Unfortunately he did not disclose whether the hamburger was garnished with catsup, mustard or onion. The story may even be true. North of Ottawa there used to be a man with a stream running through his property. He stocked it with trout and spoon-fed them. At one time they'd come a-swimming when he beat the spoon against a tin pan. Here in New Brunswick, in the good old days, there was a grist mill on the upper reaches of the Kennebecasis, where it narrows into a crystal stream. The miller's wife so the tale goes, made wonderful buckwheat pancakes and taught the trout above the mill dam to eat them out of her hand. And over on the 'strim' hill there was a lumberjack who swore that trout had a marked preference for worms that he had seasoned with tobacco juice. — Saint John Telegraph-Journal.

PERIL

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