

Time Is Running Short

As the Legislature is planning to pro- gress on Saturday, it is desirable that its activities be expedited as much as possible. This is important to the Opposition as well as to the Government, and it is particularly important that full time be made available for discussion of the Estimates when they come before the committee of the whole House this afternoon.

At this late hour, therefore, there seems no justification for further time-wasting over the controversial report of the Education Committee, since it has been introduced in such a manner as to give no indication of concurrence among the committee members themselves.

No Time For Music

Musicians who fancy they suffer unjustly from the vagaries of the critics should consider the sorry case of Dimitri Shostakovich, one of Russia's outstanding composers. Six years ago Mr. Shostakovich was called before the Politburo and charged with burdening his compositions with formalist and decadent tendencies to the detriment of the Soviet people.

Just the other day Mr. Shostakovich was again subjected to severe criticism. The new complaint was that his music is much too serious. It lacks the touch of gaiety so necessary in these troublous days.

Soil Conservation Report

While there are many factors responsible for the lowering of agricultural production in Prince Edward Island, the general depletion of the fertility of much of the soil is the most important. This depletion, in the considered opinion of the Prince Edward Island branch of the Agricultural Institute of Canada, has been brought about by many farmers overcropping their land and by soil erosion.

Briefly the report recommends, as remedial measures pending an all-out campaign to improve conditions, that detailed surveys be undertaken to determine the location and approximate acreage of land unsuitable for farming due to various causes, or at present giving low returns

owing to the depletion of fertility, but which could be restored economically with good management, etc. The survey, it is suggested, should also determine the location of old milldams which might be restored for the conservation of fish, game and water supplies; areas where farm ponds may be constructed economically; the extent to which the growth of trees and shrubs along the banks of streams has been destroyed; and the location, extent and nature of peat and muck deposits.

The report recommends, among other things, that abandoned farms on high marginal soil should be taken over by the Provincial Government and reforested naturally or artificially; that more instruction in the basic principles of agriculture, the value of forest cover, and the importance of wild life and water supplies, should be given in our primary and high schools and particularly in teacher-training courses, and that more publicity be given as to the value of livestock in maintaining soil fertility.

It is conceded that the proposed surveys will involve considerable time and expense, but by conducting them on small areas such as school districts and by beginning in districts where the need is most obvious, much can be accomplished in a few years. Certainly the objective may be regarded as an all-important one agriculturally, and cannot be longer ignored as a basic factor in our farm economy.

Help For The Wandering Scholar

Scholars from time immemorial have been in the habit of wandering the world in the neverending search for knowledge. A great teacher, whether in ancient Corinth, medieval Paris, or modern New York, attracts scholars from distant lands. There are frontiers to knowledge but the frontiers are not national but human.

It is particularly appropriate that the world's first international currency, issued by the United Nations Economic, Social and Cultural Organization, should be for the purpose of helping scholars overcome the problems of international monetary exchange. Only the United States, Canada, Switzerland, France, Indo-China, the Netherlands, Uruguay, El Salvador and Israel have so far participated in the plan but even with that modest beginning it can make an important contribution to the spread of knowledge and ideas.

It would be ideal if anyone could go anywhere without restrictions as to person, money or goods. Failing that, it will be of great advantage to all peoples that anyone travelling for cultural, scientific or educational purposes should be able to overcome the artificial currency and other restrictions which interfere with the free flow of thought.

Canadians are especially aware of their cultural debt to other countries and peoples. We have roots in many different lands and they all contribute to the strength of civilization in our own land.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Maritime retail lumber dealers start their two-day convention in Moncton today with a curling match, perfect symbol for keen but fair competition.

Jack Miner's birthday, Saturday, comes at the end of Wild Life Week. The Fish and Game Associations and other interested organizations and individuals have been doing their best to publicise conservation principles during the week, as they try to practice them throughout the year.

The editor of Punch who visited this country found nothing funny in Canada, not even, presumably, in the fact that this Kingdom called itself a Dominion to avoid hurting the republican sensitivity of our neighbour and then read into that choice of name implications of subservience to the United Kingdom.

Francis Bacon, "Lord Bacon", lord chancellor and philosopher, died this date 1626. He aimed at bringing about the new philosophy and to that end refrained from no means that seemed effective in furthering his political career. He was a pioneer of the scientific method but it is by his "Essays" that he is best known to the general reader. They are very unlike the melodious style of his other works, being his observations of life set down unceremoniously but honestly.

There should be no insuperable difficulties to providing the support for French Indo-China asked by United States Secretary of State Dulles. If the United Nations finds that there is aggression its members have an obligation to go to the assistance of the aggrieved party. If there is no aggression then there is nothing improper in responding to any request from the French authorities for assistance in pacifying their own territory. It is to be sincerely hoped, however, that no outside forces will be needed to restore peace in Indo-China.

Advertisement for 'Research On X-Bomb Ends; H-Bomb Will Do, Is Decision'. Features a cartoon of a man with a bomb and a cat, with text '1954', 'Income Tax', 'strictly daydreaming', 'actual development', 'H-Bombs Now Big Enough; Another Tested Tuesday'. Includes a small box for 'Public Forum'.

Not That We Had Anything To Do With It

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.

THE LOBSTER TRAP

Sir.—If one were to ask anyone other than a lobster fisherman to build a trap for a lobster, chances are he would make a ridiculous job of it. The material used in the building and rigging of one lobster trap consists of the following: Two lengthwise sills; three crosswise sills attached to three bows; laths; nails; five trap-heads; stay lines; bait staff with considerable wear and tear of the fingers.

I wish to make myself clear in connection with the lobster twine used in the knitting of trap-heads. I do not think there are two or more packers who will agree, as to the size of mesh to be used in the knitting of trap-heads.

As it is unlawful to trap and offer for sale undersized lobsters, why in the name of common sense do they insist on a small mesh in a trap-head? A mesh measuring under two inches is entirely too small, and a waste of twine, when they are forced to space their laths a certain distance apart, according to rules and regulations. Everyone knows there is considerable more labour on a trap-head with a one and three-quarter mesh, then there would be on one with a two and one half inch mesh, filling the same space.

Now let us consider the blind end heads. It had been brought to my attention, by one of our packers, that the smaller the mesh used in heads, the stronger the head. As everyone knows a chain is as strong as its weakest link, so with a trap-head which is as strong as its weakest mesh. The weakest mesh in a trap-head, are laced to the bow, and nailed under strapping to the sill. The first signs of decay noticed in the twine naturally will occur at the bow, or along the sill, because the whole pressure on the head takes place at this point, therefore it must be reasonable to expect that very little if any rot will take place in the center of the head, unless it be caused by rodents, or poor storage of traps.

In order to bring about the desired change, it would be necessary to standardize the size of the twine used in the manufacture of trap-heads to twenty one thread, and standardize the mesh serving the same purpose for which it was intended to two and one half inch mesh, which would mean a great saving on the purchase of tons and tons of twine to both the packers and the fishermen. In order to obtain the desired result, it would be necessary to double the strength of the trap-head by knitting an extra mesh all around the head, in order to increase the holding power where it is most needed, that is, around the bow and along the sill. Every fisherman who on occasion is faced with the fact that he has to purchase a new herring net, or mackerel net, will notice that the meshes around the nets are reinforced with a double mesh. There must be a very good reason, otherwise the mesh would not be doubled. There should be no reasonable doubt but that the same result should be obtained with the trap-head.

I am, Sir, etc. D. F. CHEVERIE Souris.

Pyramid-Sliding

(New York Herald Tribune) Pyramid-sliding, like so many other cultural contributions of ancient Egypt, is a lost art. In the old days it was inevitable that youthful Egyptians, playing hokey from school, should devote a number of afternoons to whizzing down the sides of the forbidden tombs, even while their elders were busy looting the rich burial chambers below. But time, which has worn away the smooth outer shell of the pyramids, and perhaps softened the hides of the natives as well, has brought a cessation to the ancient sport.

The Waterway And The Maritimes

Mr. J. O. Hyndman, Charlottetown in the Maritime Advocate

I have read with much interest the article in the Maritime Advocate for February by Mrs. Marjorie Wathen Fox, entitled "How Will the Saint Lawrence Waterways Affect the Maritimes?" This is a most important question and should receive serious consideration at this time by all Maritime Provincial Governments, Boards of Trade, and everyone having the future welfare of the Maritimes at heart.

I think there are one or two very important points that have been overlooked. When the present waterways were established, the Provinces of Quebec and Ontario were provided with cheap electric power at the expense of the taxpayers from the whole of Canada, and tended to centralize industry, foreign and Canadian vessels were permitted to use the waterways and canals without payment of tolls. If a toll system had been employed to take care of the cost of construction and maintenance, it would have been an entirely different question. The Suez and Panama Canals charge tolls, and these canals are self-supporting.

With the further development of the Saint Lawrence Waterways this means millions of additional horsepower for both Quebec and Ontario, and further centralization of industry, whereas it has been advocated by prominent politicians for some time that industry should be more evenly distributed to outlying sections of Canada, and particularly desirable in event of war.

It has been reported from Ottawa that it is the intention to charge tolls when the extended waterways are completed. If that is correct and justified, why were the taxpayers of all Canada burdened with the cost of the original waterways for the benefit of the Central Provinces? When it comes to asking for assistance for electric power in the Maritimes, an entirely different attitude prevails at Ottawa, as will be seen from a Canadian Press dispatch from Fredericton, N. B., recently appearing in the newspapers, which reads as follows:

Old Charlottetown

and P. E. I.

LEAGUE BRANCH ORGANIZED

"A meeting of the parishioners of St. Dunstan's Cathedral was held in St. Patrick's Hall last evening, for the purpose of forming a branch of the League of the Cross. There was a good attendance. The meeting was opened by Rev. Father McEneaney, who spoke at length of the great necessity for such a society, and also of the many advantages to be gained by being a member of such a body. He then explained the object of the society, viz, the suppression of intemperance and the promotion of the practice of religion. After reading the rules and regulations, he closed by expressing the hope that the society would take firm root and be a power for good. The meeting was then addressed by Rev. Fathers McLean, Chas MacDonald and J. A. MacDonald. Between forty and fifty members were enrolled." —The Examiner, Oct. 22, 1888.

The Age Old Story

Heaven and earth shall pass away; but my words shall not pass away... Watch ye therefore, and pray always, that ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man.

CAUGHT CHEATING

VANCOUVER, (OP) — Splitting tram tickets to get two fares for one proved costly to one convicted in court of "split ticket," he was 15 days.

NOTES BY THE WAY

People who are interested in nothing always want to get away from it all.—Hamilton Spectator.

Years ago, people said the automobile was "a passing thing"—and many hitch-hikers still think that way.—Stratford Beacon-Herald.

We don't have to wait until summer for the successful man to make hay out of the grass that grows under other people's feet.—Sudbury Star.

The office grouch says there is something radically wrong with civilization which keeps building smaller and smaller homes with larger and larger medicine cabinets.—(Stratford Beacon-Herald).

Interesting news for those interested in wild life is the fact that thirty-two 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. Whereas the caribou were thought to be disappearing, the animals appear to be increasing their numbers.—Fort William Times-Journal.

It is Mr. Abbott's last budget. A minister of finance is supposed to be the whipping boy of the government. But Mr. Abbott seems to have survived pretty well. Finance ministers should get the same benefit as the piano players in the bar-rooms of the old West, where a sign appealed to patrons: "Don't Shoot the Piano Player, He's Doing The Best He Can."—Vancouver Province.

Parents of youngsters who want to quit high school before completing the course might find it useful to draw their attention to the fact that one of every three persons in Canada now registered as seeking work is unskilled. The labor material shrinks it is the unskilled who have least chance of keeping a job.—Brantford Expressor.

Humor is a "blessed event in our lives, a factor in freedom, a bulwark against totalitarianism and the first casualty of dictatorship—long may it thrive." This opinion was given by Malcolm Muggeridge, editor of Punch, to the Canadian Club in Ottawa this week. Mr. Muggeridge, in an interview here last weekend, was less helpful about what humor is. "What makes one man laugh will have no effect on another," he said. "In fact, there are a lot of things that go into Punch I don't think are funny at all. But I am assured by others that they are intensely funny."—Montreal Gazette.

The world population has jumped almost 500 million in the last 20 years. Health conditions are improving constantly and trade activities are moving at an increasing tempo. Furthermore, more children are going to school than ever before and more letters are being written. These facts, and countless others, are backed by a wealth of figures contained in the 578-page "Statistical Yearbook, 1953," which has just been released by the United Nations Statistical Office. The volume, which comprises perhaps the fullest authoritative collection of international data contained between the covers of a single book, was prepared by the U. N. in co-operation with more than 130 countries.—Vancouver News-Herald.

More than \$91,000,000 chocolate bars were produced in Canada in 1953, an increase of seven per cent over 1952.

The conscience of the Canadian people has permitted the use of the cat-o-nine-tails and the hangman's noose to continue because they are hidden away behind walls. The judge who sentences a man to be hanged does not have to see him dancing his last jig on air; and the judge who sentences a man to be flogged does not have to watch him being cut to pieces by the cat or listen to his screams. It is our sincere conviction, after thinking about the matter for many years, that if hanging and flogging are to be continued at all, the law should lay down that they must be conducted in as public a place as possible—in the middle of a city under the open sky where the public can watch, enjoy the spectacle, and suffer suitable qualms of conscience for permitting it.—(St. John's Telegram).

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