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Editor and Managing Director, 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 MONDAY, JAN. 4, 1954

Janus, Guardian Of The Gates

In ancient Roman mythology Janus, for whom the first month in the calendar is named, was a very important deity indeed, ranking second only to the great Jupiter himself. He was the author of all the useful arts and the guardian of gates, doors, and corridors. None could pass, even en route to heaven, without his knowledge and consent. No undertaking could prosper that lacked his prior approval; none could fail that had it. Even the rising and setting of the sun depended on his benevolence, and the changing of the seasons was in his hands. His having two faces—one looking forward, the other backward—meant that nothing could ever escape his notice. He was the all-knowing, the all-seeing, and, within his province, the all-powerful.

The myth, like the god that gave it life, has been dead for many centuries, but some of its symbolism has survived. In January the thoughts of all are directed towards the future; there is much speculation on what the new year may have in store for the human family. Will events this year forward or hinder man's search for the world of his heart's desire? This is the perennial question of the human spirit. And yet, because the old year has only lately been laid away to await the judgment of history, it, too, merits thoughtful consideration. Only as nations and individuals learn from the records of the day and years that are gone can they hope to bring vigorous and constructive thought to bear on the days and years that are yet to be.

Taxes On Knowledge

One hundred years ago, after a vigorous campaign by writers, publishers and political leaders, Britain relieved newspapers from the onerous duty on advertisements and thus made it possible for many daily newspapers to be established. Up to that time only a few organizations could afford to publish daily papers. Leaders in the campaign for the free flow of ideas were Charles Dickens, Benjamin Disraeli, William Gladstone and Richard Cobden.

Now Britain has joined 16 other nations in applying the Unesco-sponsored international agreement which abolishes import duties on a wide range of educational, scientific and cultural materials. Books, newspapers, magazines, works of art, music scores, articles for the blind, are exempt, as are newsreels, educational films, sound recordings and scientific equipment if consigned to approved institutions or organizations. Cambodia, Ceylon, Cuba, Egypt, France, Israel, Laos, Monaco, Pakistan, Philippines, El Salvador, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, Vietnam and Yugoslavia have already ratified the treaty and 14 other nations have signed it.

The importance of thus freeing knowledge from being penalized by the tax collector can hardly be too greatly emphasized. "The freedom of the press" is not merely for the benefit of publishers. It is vital to the growth of civilization in its widest sense. UNESCO is rendering a most valuable service to the world by carrying on its fight against taxes on knowledge.

U. S. Foreign Trade

The current business reviews in the United States reveal the highly interesting fact that the chronic unbalance in United States foreign trade no longer exists—even though the Marshall Plan is finished. Instead of the United States exporting some $5 or $6 billions more than it imports in goods or services, the year 1953 will find a favorable balance of about $1 billion on trade account. Due to the overseas military expenditures of the United States—which are justifiable wholly on military grounds—the invisible items offset the trade surplus. So that in 1953 for the first time in many years the overall accounts of the United States with the world will be in balance and the so-called "dollar gap" will have been eliminated.

Most of the reviews point out that there is nothing stable or permanent in this condition. Trade fluctuations, United States military expenditures abroad, will be governed by political and not economic considerations. The importation of goods into the United States is tending to rise while U. S. exports are meeting much stiffer competition.

It is important in these circumstances to note that the Administration at Washington is Republican not Democratic: that by tradition it tends to high tariffs, not low tariffs: that it is the first Republican Administration since the disastrous ones of Harding, Coolidge and Hoover from 1920 to 1932. But experience is a stern teacher and there are good grounds for believing that the lessons of the Fordney-McCumber and the Hawley-Smoot tariff eras have been learned.

"It must be conceded," says the Winnipeg Free Press, "that with this rise in imports and stiffer competition abroad there are strong stirrings of protectionism in the United States. The clamor for higher tariffs, quotas or other restrictions on fish and farm products and other articles is rising. Equally it must be conceded that domestic policies in the United States—like parity prices—tend to make high tariffs if not outright prohibitions difficult to avoid. But there is evidence, also, of great restraint, of a desire not to impose higher tariffs, on the part of the Eisenhower Administration. The recent decision on oats is a case in point.

"Thus it will be seen that the United States is entering upon a critical period, a testing time in terms of economic policy. For the first time in many years, the United States trade is in balance. Foreign countries, in 1953, will actually have accumulated some $2 billions of U. S. dollars—due largely to private capital transactions.

"If the United States Administration and the Congress will resist short-sighted appeals by selfish groups and adhere firmly to a policy of freer trade, then the major economic problem confronting the free world will be resolved and a new era of prosperity—not an inflationary boom but real prosperity—will begin. That wisdom and courage to see the way and to pursue it will not be lacking at Washington, will be the hope of the free world in the months ahead."

EDITORIAL NOTES

The after-Christmas sales are already well under way, giving shoppers a chance for bargains before the stores take inventory.

* * *

Once again the first full week of the year is being celebrated as the "Universal Week of Prayer". Christians of many denominations will be attending services throughout the week.

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The number of contributions to Civil Service superannuation funds increased by 60,000 at the first of the year, requiring the Department of Finance to establish a night shift as well as increasing staff. Under the new Act virtually all civil servants qualify for superannuation.

* * *

Renewed British investment in Canada is recognition indeed of the high prospects of this country in the years to come. It is desirable, of course, that as far as possible Canadians should provide the capital for expansion but the rate of development can be considerably increased by money from the United States and Britain.

* * *

Sir Isaac Pitman, inventor of the system of shorthand known by his name, was born this date 1813. While teaching school, he published his "Stenographic Sound Hand" and later gave himself up entirely to the work of spreading the system there propounded. In 1842 he commenced the "Phonetic Journal" which he carried on until his death in 1897. He was a strong supporter of spelling reform.

* * *

Because the Canadians were serving in various theatres and under other commands their part in the Great Invasion which led to the liberation of Europe has not, perhaps, received the attention in general war histories that it might otherwise have done. Major G. K. Bell has in part rectified the situation by publishing his "photographic essay" on the role played by the 1st Canadian Army from the landings in Normandy, through France, Belgium, Holland, into Germany, across the Rhine and on to the final surrender. "Curtain Call" depicts the wartime scene and in many cases the same locality and people five years later. It is a very fine memorial to a great army.

* * *

"I see humanity as made of millions of precious individuals, highly individual individuals; no two of them in the least alike," Col. Robert Henriques, farmer and novelist, said recently on the BBC. "And each individual has, in modern jargon, a 'tripartite' relationship. Each individual, whether he likes it or not, is closely related to all the other individuals, which is what we call Society. And each, whether he likes it or not, is related to natural forces—to sunrise and the change of the seasons, to the processes of birth, growing old and death. And each, whether he likes it or not, is vitally related to supernatural forces, which I call God—and which oblige him supernaturally to recognise that this thing is wrong, and this thing is right."

Reaching Out

The Poet's Corner

FROM CALLIMACHUS

They told me, Heraclitus, they told me you were dead,
They brought me bitter news to bear and bitter tears to shed.
I wept as I remembered how often you and I
Had tired the sun with talking and sent him down the sky.

And now that thou art lying, my dear old Carian guest,
A handful of grey ashes, long, long ago at rest,
Still are thy pleasant voices, thy nightingales, awake;
For Death, he taketh all away, but them he cannot take.

—William Johnson-Corey

Old Charlottetown

(And P. E. I.)

BONNETS TO THE REAR

"On Friday last Dr. McCulloch, from Pictou, commenced his course of ten lectures on various branches of experimental philosophy, in the Court House, which was crowded in almost every part where a sight of the lecturer could be obtained. The second lecture was delivered last evening, to, if possible, a still more crowded audience. The subject, the properties of matter, was illustrated by several beautiful and interesting experiments on the air pump. Such is the interest excited by those lectures, that several young men have even come over from Pictou to attend them.

"It is but justice to the intellectual character of the fair sex to state, that a very large proportion of the audiences was composed of elegantly dressed females. On this part of the subject a correspondent has suggested, that as the ladies have had but few opportunities of attending public lectures, they are probably not aware, that on such occasions it is always customary for those who persist in keeping their bonnets on to occupy the back seats. A word to the wise is enough. We trust that common sense will show them the propriety of this arrangement."

—Royal Gazette, Sept. 8, 1835.

The Flow Of Time

(New York Times)

With December the year ran out, the year as we know and tally it in numbers. Yet no year is ever bounded by the stars and no clock ever did more than time away the moments, one year to the next. Perhaps the forefathers did it better, by numbering the years according to the seasons, springtime and sprouting as their start, winter behind, a whole new year ahead, the equinox the dividing line. But as we move away from the land we move away from both solstice and equinox, save in the almanacs, and we set our tally-point arbitrarily.

So the new year came by lantern light and snow-gleam, and at the depth of winter. And yet, such is the lag of our day-tallying the depth of winter, the shortest day, is already past. Not the depth of cold or snow, but the depth of darkness. From here on the sun climbs slowly, day by day, toward the zenith and eventually the north. And there, of course, is the conventional symbol, the change, the turn toward spring once more.

There, too, is the substance of continuity, which governs life. For even at the depth of winter snow the icy hillside and the cold valley are quick with their own life, waiting. Not the death of winter, but the waiting life which in due time and process will be touched by spring again. For the years are more than a pattern, recurring as the seasons; they are an endlessness, for all the computations, and we number them in bits only that we may more easily comprehend. A year nears its end, and we know it because we have numbered the years; and another year has just begun. So we tally up and make our little summaries, and in a measure come to know the flow of time, the span of life.

Notes By The Way

Where there's a will, there's always a lot of willing listeners.—St. Thomas Times-Journal.

Big families make happy homes, says an observer. At least they reduce the dull moments.—Port Arthur News-Chronicle.

These bathrobes with a cowboy motif may be cute for the small boy, but not exactly suitable as a costume for one the Three Wise Men in the Sunday school pageant. —Winnipeg Tribune

Fifty years ago this week the Wright Brothers flew the first heavier-than-air machine to leave the ground under its own power. The anniversary found flying long since solidly established as a means of transport and, less happily, found the airplane a weapon of war and an agency of destruction and chaos. But the progress of aircraft in half a century has been one of the marvels of all time. Starting from the primitive machine in which daringly the Wrights flew we have seen a remarkable change in design, a startling increase in speed and safety and durability, to the sleek and stirring monsters of today. —Ottawa Journal

Iceland, afar in the North Atlantic, once was so remote and little known as to seem out of this world, but air travel and the strategy of hemispheric defence, have brought the island nation of the Vikings close to us. Iceland today in many ways seems neighborly to Cape Breton. It was a neighborly deed the other day when a Cape Bretoner hailing from River Denys and on the Department of Transport staff at Sydney Airport, filled in as an emergency member of the crew of an Icelandic plane going to Reykjavik when the wireless operator of the plane fell ill and was brought to a hospital here. —Sydney Post-Record.

Arthur Mann, blacksmith of Chalf in England, hammers out horseshoes on a forge 250 years old in that Kentish village. But the forge is cooling. "I am lucky to get one horse a week," says Blacksmith Mann. The same story could be told of the old forges in Southern Ontario. Where will you find them today? Where will you now come across a sturdy smith shoeing a heavy horse? There remain two blacksmiths here in London but they shoe hunters and light horses. The magnificant Perches and Clydes have disappeared before the onrush of the automobile and the tractor. The garages flourish. The anvils cool. —London Free Press.

The task of assessing the values of women and making comparisons between one nation and another is a dangerous bit of business, but some observers have shown the courage to do some investigating on the subject of the status of women in modern society. It is perhaps a good thing that the surveys were made by women and not by men who might be called upon to account for their interpretations in their own homes. The first assessment has been made by a German journalist, Anna Haag, who compares the women of America with those in Germany. She points out that in Germany the women must abide by age-old traditions, which has the effect of keeping them invisible and inaudible when important decisions are to be made. In Germany a woman is aware that she is "only a woman" and that she is expected to behave herself sedately and go through her day's activities as though they were all duties. On the other hand, American women enjoy—or at least demand—unlimited freedom.—Saint John Telegraph-Journal.

Provinces Galore

(Ottawa Citizen)

When, in the spring of 1949, the coat of arms of Newfoundland was chiseled into the stone of the Peace Tower arch taking its place beside those of nine other provinces, most people doubtless thought it would be a long time before any further artistic efforts of the kind were required. Perhaps it will be, yet the intervening years have been filled with proposals for creating still more provinces.

Some there are who dream of Canada's domains extending to the isles of the Caribbean. Others are most intent on remoulding closer to the heart's desire the Canada that now exists. These latter include advocates of plans to extend far northward the boundaries of both Alberta and British Columbia; to give away the entire Yukon and North-West Territories to the four Western provinces (this idea was put forward by Senator W. M. Aseltine the other day); to carve a new province out of north-western Ontario and call it "Aurora"; to take a large part of the mid-continental mineral belt and form the province of "Pre-Cambria," possibly with its capital at Flin Flon; to give the North-West Territories provincial status; and to turn the island of Montreal into a separate province independent of Quebec.

This last suggestion was debated by Montreal's city council not long ago and turned down. Its sponors probably didn't expect any other treatment, but they chose a picturesque way of drawing attention to growing dissatisfaction in the metropolis with treatment accorded it by the provincial government.

Dissatisfaction, indeed, supplies the key to some of the other plans. The Aurorans feel they are too remote from Queen's Park and should be governed from Port Arthur or Fort William. The Pre-Cambrians are quite convinced that there are too many wheat farmers and not enough hard-rock miners in the legislature of Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba, and that the interests of the northland are consequently being neglected. But discontent does not explain the Alberta-B.C. extension ideas, or those of Senator Aseltine. These are grand imperialistic designs.

Little is heard nowadays about a scheme which involved not having more Canadian provinces, but fewer. This was the unification of the three prairie provinces: its main aim, economy in administration. The proposal goes back even beyond the germ of the Aurora proposition, nad was most eagerly discussed during the troubled 'thirties. But a primary obstacle was that no one could agree where the capital should be. The same difficulty may stand in the way of a united Maritimes, also talked about from time to time.

The most interesting point about the current crop of plans for the new provinces is not so much whether they have any chance of success but the further evidence they give of an expanding nation, suffering from inevitable growing pains.

VITAMINS FOR SHEEP

SYDNEY, Australia (CP) —Agricultural scientists in Australia report that losses to sheep flocks during dry seasons may be reduced by administering a spray containing vitamin A to sheep and lambing ewes. Under normal conditions green feed is the natural source of this vitamin.

The Passing Scene

By Observer

THE NEW

When Pandora was alone in the house of Epimethus, so the story goes, she could not keep away from the room which contained the forbidden box. She said to herself: "All corridors and passages lead hither and all doors but open into it. Yon mysterious chest attracts and fascinates me. Would I knew what there lies hidden! But the oracle forbids."

Anyone who ventures to look into a new year—and who doesn't?—is in a similar position. Perhaps it is just as well. Foreknowledge does not always bring happiness and our minds are so built that they thrive on mystery and anticipation. For all that, the prophets will prophesy and the seers will tell what they see.

* * *

In the few spare moments I have had since Christmas I have been searching newspaper and magazine reports of speeches made by statesmen, politicians, diplomats, and plain after dinner orators, for hints and predictions which, taken together, might indicate a trend of thought as it concerns the prospects for 1954. So far as I can make out they all add up to something like the following:

The possibility of global war will remain, but it seems a little less likely than it was, say, twelve months ago. This latter view, however, is conditioned by so many ifs, ands, and buts, that it doesn't differ very much from what is commonly referred to as wishful thinking. And there is almost unanimous agreement for the view that any real understanding between Russia and the West would be nothing less than a miracle. Apparently, the best that even the most optimistic can predict is that this year will see slight progress in that direction.

The Korean story will remain much as it is now. There will be no peace settlement; on the other hand there will be no actual resumption of hostilities. Panmunjom will retain its dubious distinction as a base for negotiations that do not end. Of course, a determined, all-out Communist thrust in Indo-China or some other Asiatic area would change the picture overnight but, apparently, this isn't considered probable, though no one will come out with the categorical statement that it won't happen. In fact, categorical statements on any subject have pretty much gone out of fashion.

* * *

The idea of the European Defence Community will continue to experience hard sledding, chiefly because of France's reluctance to support an all-European army including German units. Some experts, and a multitude of non-experts, seem to be of the opinion that the plan will be rejected by France. In that case, so it is believed, the year will witness the removal of all restrictions which have kept West Germany in a demilitarized state. The French won't like that but they will have no one to blame but themselves. The Russians won't like it either; what they will do about it, if anything, is one of the secrets in "yon mysterious chest".

Personally, I find it interesting to note the predictions of various economic prophets. Only a few months ago there was a near unanimity among them that no major depression was indicated in the foreseeable future. Even now most of the predictions are marked by optimism. Here in Canada Mr. Howe sees nothing to worry about. Export markets will continue to be good and trade generally will stay at a high level.

Mr. Gardiner, always an optimist, feels that the farm outlook is bright. (The farmers themselves seem to take a less cheerful view; they don't see how rapidly declining farm prices can indicate continued prosperity.) Mr. Gregg, the Labour Minister, sees no serious unemployment in the offing. In short, the majority opinion among the economists and cabinet ministers indicates a good year, although there will be mild "recessions" here and there.

* * *

However, there is always something to spoil the fun. Only the other day an English economist of distinction (his name escapes me at the moment) rose in his place to suggest that all this talk about continued prosperity is a case of whistling in the dark. As he sees it, nothing short of a miracle—which he doesn't expect—can keep an all-out, old-fashion-depression from getting under way some time this year.

Well, we shall see. Meanwhile, it wouldn't do anybody any harm to consider a word of counsel attributed to Plato: "As for the future, it is not to be treated lightly nor with fear, but we must approach it with calm reason."

The Age Old Story

Seek ye the Lord, all ye meek of the earth, which have wrought his judgment; seek righteousness, seek meekness: it may be ye shall be hid in the day of the Lord's anger.

OLYMPIC TIME

Ancient Greek chronology was measured in olympiads-four-year cycles corresponding to the Olympic Games.

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