

THE GUARDIAN

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CHARLOTTETOWN, THURSDAY, FEB. 26, 1953

Tide Has Turned

It used to be taken as a matter of course that Canadians, particularly those from the Maritimes, would make use of their talents and education anywhere but at home but most particularly in the United States. Astonishingly large numbers went from these small Provinces to help build up that great nation.

Today the situation is very different. How complete the change has been is shown by statistics compiled by the secretary of the University of New Brunswick alumni association. Out of approximately 1,350 graduates of that university who were Canadian citizens and who received their sheepskins in the past five years, only 14 are now earning their livelihood in the United States.

The fact is, of course, that today Canada is the land of opportunity, the land of the frontier, the land of expansion and exploitation of great natural resources. It has become a magnet for ambitious American youth and those of many countries who see the opportunity to take part in Canada's phenomenal growth. Small wonder, then, that Canadian young people decided that far away fields are not nearly so green as those of their own country.

Britain's Fine Gesture

A man who is himself in grave peril may be forgiven if for the moment he forgets the tribulations of his neighbor. It did not occur to the people behind the crumbling dikes of Holland to appeal for help from England. To the Dutch it seemed that the British had quite enough to do in coping with disaster at home.

But in the midst of their own trouble the British people read reports from Holland, and the help which was not asked was given. The London correspondent of the Manchester Guardian is able to write: "Clothing, warm underwear, footwear, and bedding are specially welcome and many consignments have been forwarded to Holland. Chelmsford has sent a truckload of clothes, and the Society of Friends thirteen bales of bedding. A lot of money has also been sent to the Embassy. All this has happened without any appeal being made."

"It is not difficult to be cynical about human conduct and to ferret out motives of self-interest behind many apparently benevolent deeds," says the Winnipeg Free Press. "But surely this free act of kindness is reminiscent of Sir Philip Sidney's gesture at Zutphen when, mortally wounded, he handed the precious cup of water to a dying soldier, saying: 'Thy necessity is yet greater than mine.'"

No Specialized Training

It is strange to note that despite the huge expenditures in road building in recent years, highway engineering is the most neglected of the sciences according to the findings of the Canadian Good Roads Association. It says the cause of the shortage is chronic, with no immediate solution in sight; that no Canadian university provides specialized training in it, and that would-be highway engineers must go abroad to study (and all too likely stay abroad).

This, comments the Globe and Mail, reflects an astonishing lack of resourcefulness among our senior governments, including Ottawa. Highway expenditure (and highway revenue) is in the multi-million-dollar realm today. In highway science, as in forest, field and mine science, the obvious way to promote university courses is to offer incentives, by way of scholarships or other recognized devices. The biggest beneficiary from the highway business might well be expected to take the lead in such enterprise, yet nowhere is the silence more profound than in Ottawa. Aside from its sharing of Trans-Canada costs, the Dominion Government has contributed practically nothing to the nation's roads. Last year the automotive industry, according to the Canadian Automobile Chamber of Commerce, paid the Dominion Treasury \$138,487,863 in sales and excise taxes alone—not to mention the substantial share Ottawa took in income taxes and hidden taxes from the \$131,992,273 wages which the industry paid its 33,059 employees.

Ottawa's neglect of the scientific training phase is, however, still no excuse for the indifference of Provincial Governments.

If students are not alert to the opportunities awaiting them it is not they but the authorities who are to blame. The CGRA reports that one highway department secured only one-sixth of the engineers it needed. If as a result of such a shortage we are getting less than the best in roads, it is the taxpayers who are the actual losers.

Conquest Of Influenza

The Health Organization of the United Nations has announced that medical science which has been making a study of influenza in fifty-five laboratories in forty-four countries will be able within a short time to pronounce the conquest of the disease.

The fact that there are three main types of virus responsible for influenza had increased the difficulty of combatting it. It has been found that with the right vaccine to apply to each—and these have been found—the disease can be successfully fought. Because the type identified in the epidemic in a number of countries this year had been studied by the experts in earlier research, the correct vaccine to counteract it was quickly made available in quantity.

Influenza, which may rapidly spread throughout a nation, causes victims very considerable discomfort, generally results in a heavy death toll and seriously affects the general economy, has long baffled those engaged in searching for its causes and for preventive measures. The announcement is of world-wide importance. In making it, the Health Organization stated: "Even in its present mild form, it can cause great economic loss and dislocation of essential services, especially as the ill effects are concentrated within a few weeks. In the Netherlands in 1949, 2,200 persons died of influenza and its complications, within a short period. These facts alone would make it important to learn how to control the disease, but it is even more vital to discover how to prevent or repel an attack of a lethal influenza pandemic such as the 1918-1919 one, which is believed to have killed at least 15,000,000 persons throughout the world. We do not know what led to this outbreak in 1918, nor whether a similar one will appear again."

EDITORIAL NOTES

The aerial survey of Summerside proposed by Mr. Charles Linkletter to the Community Planning unit would certainly provide rapid and accurate information on which to base plans for the future.

Seventy-five-year-old Pipe-Major Andrew Kirk of St. Andrews, Fife, Scotland, is composing a new air to celebrate Queen Elizabeth's Coronation. He gave piping lessons to the Duke of Windsor when he was Prince of Wales.

Sir Patrick Gardiner Hastings, English lawyer, died this date 1951. He was educated at Charterhouse, elected Labour M. P. for Wallsend and became Attorney-General for the first Labour Government in England. He published a number of plays, "The River", "Scotch Mist", and "Escort" as well as an autobiography.

That the U. N. powers have the avowed aim of unifying Korea but are under no obligation to do so by military means was an important point made by External Affairs Minister Pearson in the Commons before leaving for U. N. headquarters in New York. The division into North and South Korea has no international sanction, except that of Russia and her satellites. The Communists too want to reunite that country, but only on terms of submerging the Republic of Korea under Communist rule.

The naming of grades in many products is confusing to those unfamiliar with them. Potatoes, until now, have been an exception but it is proposed to introduce higher grades than Canada No. 1. The Potato Committee of the Canadian Horticultural Council is understandably concerned, that the quality of that grade be maintained or even raised. Putting some such grades as fancy or extra fancy over it would have a strong tendency to lower the standard for the present top grade.

Charlottetown citizens have always recognized the importance of the work of the Y.M.C.A., and given their generous support. Once more, as the workers have gone amongst us to raise funds to retire the outstanding debt on the building they are everywhere met with friendliness and generosity. The object of paying off the heavy mortgage and being relieved of interest charges appeals to the business sense of citizens as the intensive use of the premises and facilities of the "Y" assures them that their money is being spent to good advantage.

Working His Way Through College



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.

DON'T BE A BOOKWORM

Sir.—The earthworm, unlike the beaver or other burrowing animal, actually eats the earth; in fact, it has been likened to an earth-mill. Nearly one hundred years ago Charles Darwin made an interesting discovery about vegetation in England. Each year in that country the earthworm deposits in the top soil as much as twenty tons of clay which has passed through the earthworm's body. It has since been discovered that in parts of the land irrigated by the river Nile the count is as high as 200 tons per acre per year. As a figure of speech the term "Bookworm" should be applied to Queen Victoria, in a flattering mood, spoke of Lord Macaulay as a 'Book in Breeches'. No reader cares to have these epithets applied to him because it seems to imply that he swallows holus-bolus everything he reads. In a gold vein, for every grain of gold the gold-digger puts in his pickaxe he discards tons of dirt—country rock. He dreams of what he will do when he makes his million. But when he comes to building his air-castles, ideal inside and out, he will have to discard 99 per cent of the ideas that pop into his head.

For seven years Joseph of Egypt fed the starving world. He did not offer them a stone. Nor did he offer them straw and chaff. After the winnowing of years' plenty he gave them what they needed, the life-giving cleansed grain. In all cases it is the substance that sustains.

Like Joseph a good reader often finds inspiration in a dream. In the dim past a person told me he had a strange experience. One night in a dream he saw two packages made up of all sizes of precious pearls with a rich pendant attached; the other, a loop of rope. Like Abou Ben Adhem he felt in need of some higher light and he offered up a little prayer to his guardian angel and lo! it was written down. The pearls in ascending value were taken from the paragraphs and chapters of the Book of Life and the rich pendant was the lasting influence which the book had on his future. The loop of rope signified a slave's halter or at the worst a hangman's noose, and the rope was made from the strands of influence in a bad book.

Little boys are mother's little angels. But if an urchin dumps a packet of needles into your favorite breakfast bran you are going to be sure that your cook puts the bran thrice through her flour sifter before serving it. Even then you are going to be a discriminating eater.

To him who has what Wordsworth calls "the vision and the faculty divine", nothing in nature is a crazy patchwork. With the naked eye we see the beauty that Jack Frost paints on a sheet of glass or the picturesque rolling banks and mountains of white clouds and blue sky created by sun, wind and moisture. When magnified by today's powerful lens, we behold in nature the most exquisite perfection: art which man can abuse but cannot equal. A speck of soot, a ray of colored sunlight streaming through a cathedral window surpasses man's greatest skill. Woven in nature's web are works which not even a da Vinci in his most creative moment could equal in delicacy, beauty and magnificence. In the cycle of plant, flower, and fruit, the history of a thousand beautiful color designs are wrought in God's wonderful laboratory. As Joyce Kilmer said, "Only God can make a tree," and in the seed it is determined whether it is to be

Notes By The Way

A food expert says that brides will now find far less guesswork in recipes. That may be true, but young husbands will be in for some surprises just the same.—St. Catharines Standard.

"Many motorists run through red lights because they hate their jobs," says a psychologist. This through red lights on the way to work as well as when returning.—(Kingston Whig-Standard).

Last year there were 402,259 new motor vehicles sold in Canada—three-quarters of them passenger vehicles—the total being an increase of some 17,000 over sales in 1951. Presently, if this keeps on, the streets and roads will be so full of cars nobody can move, and what do we do then?—Ottawa Journal.

Absence of snow is a nuisance in a bush when logs or firewood are being brought out. There may be less maple syrup than usual, if early indications mean anything. Winter heat will not benefit from being uncovered, or covered with a layer of ice instead of snow. In general the light snowfall is welcome in the country as it is in the city, apart from the sports-minded people. Snow has only a small economic role to play in these days of wheeled transportation, and it costs more to dispose of an abundance of it than to get along without quite enough.—Cornwall Standard-Freeholder.

Half a century or more of what may be described as a cold war, with the sea often threatening but never launching an all-out offensive.

Old Charlottetown

(And P. E. I.)

SHIPWRECK

"The brig Sultan, of Whitby, Capt. Sanderson, 9 days from New York, bound to Miramichi, struck on the reef off the North Cape on the evening of Friday the 31st ult. The crew got on shore the following morning, and were living in a hut on the Cape. In consequence of there being some suspicion of cholera having been on board, the inhabitants in the vicinity were strictly enjoined not to go near the people landed from the vessel, until they had been inspected by a health officer, a caution which we are sorry to say some of them neglected. Dr. Jenkins has been despatched to the spot by the Board of Health, and his report, we trust, will relieve the public mind from any alarm which may have been experienced on this subject."—Royal Gazette, Sept. 11, 1832.

an elm or an oak. We are living in no fool's paradise. Here is an epigram of Prior: "Yes, every poet is a fool—By demonstration, Ned can show it; Happy could Ned's inverted riddle. Prove every fool to be a poet."

Be not discouraged by the Neds. Whoever you are and wherever you be, read and reread the best in poetry and you will have a reader's rich experience. I am, Sir, etc. J. P. McCLOSKEY.

The Poet's Corner

ON THE DECLINE OF POETRY

Is there no magic any more, Is beauty gone, will no one tell The secret of the pale sea shell With gale and spindrift at its core, Or trace the flight of eagles' wings And write the joy the skylark sings? Now the dark solitude of pines Weaves no more mystery, the well Of soundless midnight casts no spell. And all the intricate designs Of frost and snowflake signify Nothing to the unseeing eye.

And there is none to mark and praise The ageless moon, the poppy's flame, The rose, around whose lovely name Was wrought all poetry in days. When the sweet singer walked with kings And crowned with song a thousand springs. —Lenore A. Pratt in the Montreal Star.

The Age-Old Story

The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is long-suffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance. But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up. Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness, looking for and hastening unto the coming of the day of God, wherein the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat? Nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness, wherefore, beloved, seeing that ye look for such things, be diligent that ye may be found of him in peace, without spot, and blameless.

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The Passing Scene

By Observer SOME AFTER THE BUDGET THOUGHTS

More than once during the past week I have found myself thinking about Mr. Abbott's latest Budget. The one he hopes will be his last. And there's a strange thing. While most men would like nothing better than to be in a position to decide what other people should do with a big slice of their earnings, Mr. Abbott says he is tired of it and wants another job. It must be that the kind of financial power wielded by the Minister of Finance is not as attractive as it looks from the outside. Historically, the job of tax collector has never been held in great repute. In Bible days it was frowned upon that in the popular view a tax collector and a sinner meant very much the same thing. The office has gone a long way up the ladder of respectability since then but, even now, it comes in for a lot of uncharitable comments. I should imagine that no one would find the political hustlings more uncomfortable than the man whose job it has been to direct the financial affairs of the country.

This much, however, will be said about Mr. Abbott. If he has not been able to popularize his office, at least he has gone about his work with decorum and dignity, to say nothing of the courage he has had to muster from year to year. The words "Election Year" must be sweet music to the ears of any Finance Minister for they indicate a period in his official career when he can let his emotions influence his judgement. After being obliged for several seasons to hold a tight rein on the country's purse it must seem good to be able to relax a bit and give a few concessions to the heavily burdened tax-payer. It is, of course, pure coincidence that the financial condition of the country is always at its best just before an election but it is a fortunate coincidence for all that. Life would not be worth living for any Finance Minister if he never had an election coming up to soften his heart and start in his soul the flow of the milk of human kindness.

It is hard to have to say "no!" all the time, and that is what Mr. Abbott has had to say all these years. What a relief it must be to be able to say "yes!" for a change, thanks to the country's good financial standing—and an ensuing election! No one will begrudge Mr. Abbott his few months of happiness. He deserves them, for as Finance Ministers go he can hold his own with the best of them. There is no doubt that Canada's money position is good, better perhaps than that of any other country in the world, and he must have had something to do with bringing it about. Whether it is any better this year than it was a year ago is a question that only Mr. Abbott can answer and he isn't saying much about it. How could he be expected to go into that with an election only a few months away? In the words of the old copybook adage: "One thing at a time and that done well is a very good rule as many can tell."

Political affairs are sometimes referred to as a "game", and with some reason. No sooner was the recent Budget brought down than the Conservatives and other gentlemen in opposition branded it as an "Election Budget". So far, so good. Everybody, Mr. Abbott included, accepts the label good-naturedly. It's the thing to do. An election Budget on the eve of an election would not only be unpopular. It would be stupid. There never has been one and there is not likely to be one in the foreseeable future. No matter what the various opposition groups may say, a change in the forthcoming election would not be followed by any appreciable change in Budget tactics. Mr. Drew knows this. So does Mr. Coldwell, and so does Mr. Low, and they are all, all honourable men.

An institution as old as the "Election Budget" is not going to be torn up by the roots simply by transfer of executive power from one group to another. In this respect it is similar to other aspects of the "game", election promises for example. Everybody knows that if all the promises made on the eve of an election were kept the country would be well on the road to bankruptcy within a year.

The most we can hope for is that the game aspects of politics will not be allowed to smother the more serious ones and that, so far as possible, all groups shall abide by the rules. It is safe to say that an Election Budget "lets nobody, but it may entertain a great many. So perhaps it has a comic value apart altogether from the tax revenue it affords for a time temporarily. And certain amount of comedy now and then, like a little nonsense, is relished by the best of men.

The task of governing a country well and keeping it financially solvent while juggling it for defense is no joke. It is very serious business indeed. But it would be unbearably difficult if governments were denied their occasional bit of fun and amusement. And what better time for it than just before an election when everybody is in the proper mood?

If I were asked to close my eyes and make a political wish it would be that some day a government will resolutely determine to stay in office for its full legal term, and I am sure there are many others who would make the same wish. No doubt the present government can make any number of good excuses for going to the country this year but, up to this time, I have heard of no good reason so far as the well being of the country is concerned.

There is apparently no great political crisis at hand or in the making. The people could re-elect the administration or throw it out of office, whatever it turns out to be, just as well next year as this. Why then should the country be put to the bother and expense of an election one moment before it is absolutely necessary?

MODERN TREND

REGINA, (CP)—A new traffic division has been established by the Regina police force. Officials said it was necessitated by the recent switch from theft to traffic as the main problem in law enforcement.

STEADY WORKER

VANCOUVER, (CP)—Norm Dillabough observed his 65th birthday by staying home for the first time, except for illness, in 27 years. Retirement was compulsory for the veteran city employee.

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