

THE GUARDIAN

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CHARLOTTETOWN THURSDAY, OCT. 12, 1950

A Commonwealth Survey

A valuable contribution to contemporary British history is made by "Public Affairs", national quarterly of the Institute of Public Affairs, Dalhousie University, in a recently published special issue. The edition is a symposium on Commonwealth Affairs, the contributors being outstanding newspapermen and women from the various dominions and colonies, each of whom reviews the progress made during the past half century respectively in the United Kingdom, Canada, Australia, India, Ceylon, and South Africa. Special articles are also devoted to Gibraltar, Malta and Malaya, the issue concluding with a comprehensive article by the editor, Mr. C. F. Fraser, on the subject of Collective Bargaining.

Canada's place in the Commonwealth is dealt with by Mr. Arthur R. Ford, editor-in-chief of the London Free Press and Chancellor of the University of Western Ontario, who gives a most interesting account of the relations of this Dominion to Great Britain and the rest of the Empire from the beginning of the century.

This issue constitutes Volume XII, Number 4, of "Public Affairs", which has developed into a first-rate forum for the discussion of contemporary problems, both national and international, in politics, economics, finance, industry and labor. It can be recommended to all interested in these subjects, both for its style and content.

Tractors Lack Intelligence

Farm children undoubtedly play a much greater role in the family economy than any others. They contribute to the family prosperity although for income tax purposes they are regularly listed as dependents. It must never be forgotten, however, that they are children and the tasks expected of them must be selected accordingly.

The tractor is usually fairly simple in operation and quite young children can grasp the mechanics of its use. They are usually only too willing to do so. The tractor, however, is an enormously powerful machine. It is capable of doing a great amount of work, or devastating damage. In the hands of a child it can suddenly change from a useful bit of farm machinery to a killer. A team of horses would be dangerous enough in very young hands, but they, at least, are likely to be sensible animals who will make up for many deficiencies of their youthful driver.

The tractor is completely lacking in intelligence and must be uninterruptedly controlled. The briefest inattention or confusion in the driver's seat can mean disaster, perhaps to the driver himself. A strong sense of responsibility is essential for its safe operation and should not be expected at too tender an age.

Trouble In The Ancient Colony

From Canada's tenth Province comes a pronouncement which marks the emergence of a new and ominous principle in party politics. The trouble, it seems, is that Mr Samuel Drover, member of the Newfoundland legislature for White Bay, was bold enough to express doubt as to the wisdom of some of Premier Smallwood's policies. Mr. Smallwood, without waiting for the Legislature to meet, forthwith announced Mr. Drover's expulsion from the ranks of the Liberal Party.

It is the Newfoundland Premier's statement of the reason for his action that occasions most concern. "To denounce the Liberal government or to express doubt of its sincerity," says Mr. Smallwood, "is an inexcusable violation of party discipline."

Here, surely, is a new and dangerous principle which Premier Smallwood will have difficulty in defending. Ordinary members of the Legislature, it seems, are no longer free to express even doubt concerning the wisdom of government policy without danger of expulsion. They must serve, if Mr. Smallwood's words mean what they say, as rubber stamps for government policy, right or wrong.

Newfoundlanders are noted for their sense of independence and integrity of purpose. It is earnestly to be hoped that the people of White Bay constituency will manifest that independence and integrity in supporting Mr. Drover despite his expulsion from party ranks. Whatever the outcome, Premier Smallwood's arbitrary and dictatorial action will not enhance public confidence in the political tenets of Liberalism.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Mr. N. H. Jewell will now be giving "the gladhand" to customers at Prowse's, while the president is extending hospitality at Government House.

Russia does not want to fight so long as she can find Northern Korea and the Communist Chinese to fight for her, backed by Western fellow travellers.

Curfew law for children of the City is now in effect. This means they must all be off the streets immediately after the first evening show at the movies.

North Korea's announced determination to "fight to the death" sounds like yet another Communist steal from their Nazi mentors.

Milk producers, and consumers, seem likely to benefit by the Western farmer's misfortune in having frost-damaged grain, saleable only for feed. It is an ill wind that blows no good.

Churchill, on his recent visit to Copenhagen, was greeted by the biggest crowd ever assembled there, also by some Communist demonstrators evidently anxious to prove that there is something rotten in the state of Denmark.

We are now exclusively dieselized except for the heavy fall traffic when one or two of our old steam engines will have to be re-imported from Moncton. With eighteen diesels our ordinary rail service can be maintained at a considerable saving in operation.

Councillors Cox and Stewart had excellent progressive reports of work accomplished at the City Council meeting. The bulk of outside operations is on their shoulders and they gave an excellent account of work done or in the act of completion.

President Truman has had resort to an Islander, Mr. Cyrus S. Ching, to make recommendations to the head of the new Economic Stabilization Agency about to be organized. For this purpose Mr. Ching will be allowed leave from his job as chairman of the Conciliation Board for Labour and Management.

Elizabeth Fry, English social reformer, died this date 1845. She was the daughter of John Gurney of Earlham, head of a family of bankers; early in life she became interested in the "submerged tenth", and devoted her energies and wealth to alleviating their condition. She was the means of securing great improvements in the hospital system and in the treatment of the insane.

An English firm has just exported to Canada several plants for converting surplus fish and fish offal into edible meal, chiefly for cattle food. The plants include 40-ton Ferramatic backing machines which break up the material fed into them and pass it to sterilisers for "cooking." The product appears from 44-ft. steam jacketed drying cylinders ready for grinding and bagging. These units are used for treating non-fatty white fish such as cod.

The break-down in railway labour negotiations is not surprising in view of the fact that any concession offered limited the field in which the arbitrator is to work. Under the circumstances satisfactory negotiation was impossible. Before compulsion is applied there should be some opportunity for tentative offers which, if not accepted, would not prejudice the party making them.

Five timber wolf pups captured in Banff National Park, Alberta, and 24 chipmunks and eight raccoons caught in Georgian Bay National Park, Ont., have been sent by the Federal Department of Resources and Development to the Royal Zoological Society of Scotland at Edinburgh Zoo. Canadian wild-life stocks at Edinburgh have fallen in recent years and an effort is being made to augment them.

A party of Canadian students, nine men and one woman, have just been having an unusual holiday in Britain, doing social work in the East End of London. They were brought over by the Rev. "Tubby" Clayton of All Hallows-by-the-Tower Church, London, and have been spending their summer vacation looking after boys and girls living in such districts as Limehouse, Poplar, Stepney and Wapping. Several of the students are keen sportsmen and, helped with a gift of \$100 worth of sports equipment from the students council of McGill University, soon started teaching the lads baseball, which they now play keenly against each other.

The Poet's Corner

GALLOW! There was a weasel lived in the sun With all his family, Till a keeper shot him with his gun And hung him up on a tree, Where he swings in the wind and the rain In the sun and in the snow, Without pleasure, without pain On the dead oak tree bough. There was a crow who was no sleeper, But a thief and a murderer Till a very late hour; and this keeper Made him one of the things that were, To hang and flap in the rain and wind. In the sun and in the snow, There are no more sins to be sinned On the dead oak tree bough. There was a magpie, too, Had a long tongue and a long tail; He'd be both talk and do— But what did that avail? He, too, flaps in the wind and rain Alongside weasel and crow, Without pleasure, without pain, On the dead oak tree bough. And many other beasts And birds, skin, bone and feather, Have been taken from their feasts And hung up there together, To swing and have endless leisure In the sun and in the snow, Without pain, without pleasure, On the dead oak tree bough. —Edward Thomas.

Ring, a Ring o' Roses

(The Times, London) Life for a starfish, said a recent broadcaster, is not a bed of roses. Being a kindly man, anxious to avoid depressing his listeners, he hastened to add that there are compensations for a starfish and triumphs of survival unattainable by the fittest of mortal men. If, for instance, a crab bites off and eats four of its arms it can live to grow four new ones, and if it eats something poisonous itself it can match that mythical nursery rhyme of throwing out the baby with the bath water. Poison and stomach containing it are together ejected and no harm done. All this is very nice for the starfish, but some listeners, emotionally allergic to the joys and sorrows of the rock pool, must have found their thoughts straying into deeper waters. For whom is life—for whom has life ever been a bed of roses? The bed of Procrustes may seem, today, to provide a nearer parallel. That hospitable Greek had, it will be remembered, two beds, a short one into which he put his tall visitors, after lopping off their superfluous inches, and a long one, where the little chaps, having been lengthened out to match reposed. Resting uneasily on the twin beds of cost of living that calls for a longer and longer income and rate of taxation that leaves the income shorter and shorter, the heir of all the ages, including two world wars and a turbulent interlude of peace, feels that never have so many had to put up with so much. The Russians are too well equipped with good tanks and the West Indians with good cricketers. There is seldom a seat in the train in the morning and a new suit costs as much as Sir Charles Cochran spent in happier days on dressing his star gentleman to appear with credit through a whole evening of regardless-of-expense revue. The time is out of joint and the cursed spite of it is that wise and well-meaning men, like President Truman, Mr. Atlee, Mr. Churchill, and the listener himself, inattentive to the tale of the starfish, are not given the free hand they deserve in setting it all right. That causes for self-pity exist today and are beyond the control of the sufferer is only too plain. What is overlooked is that in ages in which there seems, glancing back, every reason for general self-satisfaction people found it necessary to invent excuses for pessimism. Metternich, gloomily surveying the early part of the nineteenth century into which his fate had pitched him, wished that he had been born in 1900. He lived to be 68, and so, had he been granted his desire, he would now have the first half of the twentieth century behind him and another 30 and more years of it to face. It is a beautiful thought of so vintage a reactionary figure. This is the classic example of a man discontented with his own time, but it is a common kind of escapism, encountered even in apparently halcyon periods of history. Urge to bolt from the present into past or future is matched by a singular capacity, noticeable in every generation, for nosing out contemporary enemies of mental peace and quiet. Goase told how his father, finding the servants indulging in Christmas pudding on the appropriate feast day—of which he disapproved—bore off to the dustbin the "idolatrous confectionery." Such a storm in the teacup of bigotry is laughable only to those who lack imaginative sympathy with their ancestors. This mutiny in his kitchen upset Goase, one may be sure, as much as, had he been alive today, he would have been distressed by the invasion of Korea. There is no rhyme or reason in the things that men discover to worry about. There has never been a bed of roses free from thorns. A lesson might after all be learned from the starfish as useful as the one Bruce got from his spider.

NEED WARMTH

Coral reefs are confined to waters in which the temperature does not fall below 63 degrees even in coldest months.

The Watchdog Doesn't Interfere With The Welcome. Includes cartoon of a dog and a man with a sign that says 'I'm earlier invitation to convene at Prince Edward Hotel'. Text: FRIENDLY, IF TENACIOUS! INSISTENCE ON OBSERVING THE SPIRIT OF B.M.A.K.T. NEWS ITEM: B.C. invites constitutional conference to convene next at Victoria.

Old Charlottetown (And P. E. I.) GRAIN PRODUCTION

"It strikes us that in Upper Canada the farming is slowly and steadily being improved and that with a better system the average per acre might be doubled. Nevertheless, that Province with her 32 bushels of grain per head is becoming rich and powerful. Our acreage average is about the same as that of Upper Canada, but we raise only half the average (16 bushels per head). Here we have the reason why this Colony is a poor country... Professor Johnston got himself into bad odor in New Brunswick by remarking upon the indolence of her agricultural population, which he ungenerally extended to the farmers' wives. The medicine, if bitter, is wholesome, and we doubt not will produce salutary effects. Our farmers spend too much of their time in dawdling and frolicking; but let them remember, that the superior prosperity of Upper Canada originates in, and depends upon, her farmers labouring twice as hard. The following table exhibits the comparative agricultural industry of the several Districts of this Island, to the nearest bushel of grain, omitting fractions, per head of the inhabitants. We hazard little in conjecturing that the comfort of the people, in every District, will bear a considerable relation to the proportion of grain raised: "1st Queen's, 22 bus.; 2nd Prince, 20 bus.; 1st King's, 30 bus.; 3rd Queen's, 16 bus.; 2nd King's, 18 bus.; 2nd Prince, 17 bus.; 2nd Queen's, 16 bus.; 3rd King's, 14 bus.; 1st Prince, 11 bus." —The Islander, Nov. 12, 1852.

Jack Cameron the Store for MEN. Includes illustration of two men in suits. Text: No other suit in Canada is better known or more highly regarded for quality. No wonder a Triple Test Suit can be bought with complete Confidence... and worn with Pride. 139 Kent St. Charlottetown.

Notes By The Way

The Ontario Department of Health has brought in very rigid regulations covering the operation of restaurants, not only governing the physical requirements of the establishment but also dealing with the personnel. These regulations touch upon such things as cut fingers and open sores, and other health requirements. They are all aimed at preventing the spread of disease. — Sudbury Star.

Fishermen's encounters with whales on the New Brunswick and Nova Scotia coasts this season brings to mind the fact that a century ago this part of the country had a sizable whaling fleet. While the sea mammoths do venture occasionally into our own waters such as the Bay of Fundy — beaked whales, right whales, finback whales, blue whales, hump-backed whales and other species — they have never been numerous around these parts that it was worth while to hunt them. Instead, Maritime whaling ships sailed half way around the globe to scan the south Pacific for their big game. Saint John's whaling hey-day lasted from 1833 to 1850. In 1837, when the trade was at its peak, this city had the largest group of whalers in the Maritime region — seven vessels, five of them operated by the Mechanics' Whale-Fishing Company. — Saint John Telegraph-Journal.

For two years now Charles Chilton, 33-year-old Cockney, has tinged the spine of England's radio listeners with startling stories of the wild and woolly West; of gun shot and sagebrush, buffalo and tornado, flap jacks and chaps. His scripts were so realistic that authorities in Tombstone, Arizona, appointed him an honorary marshal. Chilton had a slight deficiency that might bother cynics. He read a lot and had imagination but he had never seen the American wild West; never indeed crossed the ocean. Battle of Britain and a few things like that — yes; but no redskin or tobacco juice. Now he is coming over, and guess what he is doing in preparation? Taking riding lessons in Fotten Row. He feels he will need that experience in Tombstone. Heaven help Charles Chilton! He who has ridden furiously on BBC's nightly short wave broadcasts, scaring the brave out of their shirts, and others into them, is in for a great awakening. There is little doubt that Tombstone will be delighted to see him; will cart him off to the hotel (hot and cold running water and filet mignon au graveyard) in a limousine, and from there after dry martins and caviar, he will be conveyed to the local motion picture. There, if he is lucky, he will see the wild West. — Hamilton Spectator.

MENNONITE COMMUNITY COOKBOOK by Mary Emma Showalter (The John C. Winston Company Ltd. 494 pp. \$4.50). Quaintly illustrated by youthful Naomi Nisley and by superb colour photographs, this is a collection of four-hundred mouthwatering recipes from old Mennonite cookbooks. The community may not rank in fame with the Society of Friends but if so, it is not the fault of their womenfolk's cooking.

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