

THE GUARDIAN

Authorized as Second Class Mail Post Office Department, Ottawa, The Thomson Co. Ltd.

Editor and Manager, 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, FRIDAY, FEB. 19, 1954

Of Common Concern

The news that Canada has increased its financial contribution to the Technical Assistance Program of the United Nations will be welcomed by all Canadians who believe that economic betterment of backward peoples is an added bulwark against the spread of Communism and, at the same time, a positive factor in the building of world peace.

Out of all the criss-cross arguments and controversies of modern times, one thing is patently clear: the erstwhile backward races in Asia and Africa are alert as never before to the material and technological advantages which other races and nations enjoy and which they themselves have been denied.

The Farmer's Predicament

The Ottawa Journal notes that at the Hamilton convention of the Ontario Federation of Labor Mr. Douglas McEntee, of the United Automobile Workers, explained that a reduction in implement sales was due to farmers being unable to buy because of a 22 per cent drop in their own income in the last 15 months.

"What now?" asks The Journal. "The world production of basic commodities, especially foodstuffs, is rising, and competition for markets is ever more keen. In 1953 the average weekly earnings of Canadian workers in manufacturing rose by four per cent in real income, but the farmer in many cases had no income gain for the year and in several instances he had less.

"Perhaps it is all for the best that Canada should seek to be more and more an industrialized nation in competition with the United States, United Kingdom, Germany and Japan with whom in other days we were pleased to trade wheat for bicycles and coarse grains for electrical appliances.

Western Europe's Recovery

The European Coal and Steel Community's new goal of 50 million tons of steel a year points up the remarkable economic recovery made by the nations of Western Europe since World War II. Industrial output of countries west of the Iron Curtain has increased to 140 per cent of the pre-war average.

Western Europe's economy is historically geared to industrialization rather than agriculture, says the National Geographic

Society. A large and skilled labor force is readily available. Many fine ports can ship finished goods to foreign markets. There are rich deposits of coal and iron ore, though inadequate for all of Western Europe's manufacturing needs.

Western Europe is an area of some 1,238,000 square miles, extending westward from a line stretching approximately from Stettin on the Baltic Sea south to Trieste on the Adriatic. To the east is the Iron Curtain, encircling the Soviet Union and its satellites.

Contrary to popular belief, Western Europe's major industrial plants did not all suffer severe bomb damage or destruction in World War II. In some instances, production facilities were actually expanded. Coal and steel production were drastically curtailed, however, and transportation lines were shattered.

In 1953 the European Coal and Steel Community produced 247 million tons of coal and about 40 million tons of steel. Industries involved in the coalition employ 1,750,000 people, one-tenth of the combined labor force of the six member nations—France, West Germany, Italy, Belgium, the Netherlands and Luxembourg.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Ice-covered wires and branches are beautiful but the heavy load brings with it the danger of broken branches and disrupted communications. It is armour that, instead of providing protection, brings down the wearer by its weight.

The North American regional committee proposed by the International Federation of Agricultural Producers is a realistic conception apart from the position of wheat. The potato industry in particular is continent wide rather than provincial or national in scope and it is well that this Province will be represented at the forthcoming Washington meeting.

Andre Paul Guillaume Gide. French novelist and critic, died this date 1951. He began in a vein of turgid romanticism veiled as symbolism and seemed to oscillate between discipline and anarchy, between classicism and revolt, between austerity and sensuality.

This Province has lost another distinguished son in the passing of Monsignor Richard R. St. John, whose death in Chicago at the comparatively early age of fifty-eight, comes as a distinct shock to his many friends here.

Warmest congratulations are due to St. Dunstan's University debaters in winning their third Maritime Intercollegiate Debating Championship in five years. As pointed out in today's news columns, in twenty-four debates in regular Maritime intercollegiate competition St. Dunstan's has won nineteen victories.

Breaking In On The Enchantment



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.

ATLANTIC FEDERATION

Sir.—The suggestion of an Atlantic Federation made by Prime Minister St. Laurent to the leaders of the West German Republic at Bonn ranks with the constructive thought which brought about the unions of the thirteen American States in 1791; and of the then colonies of British North America in 1867.

Federal Union is a political device which gives unity while safeguarding diversity. Federal Union on the Canadian model goes farther. Designed as it was after the American Civil War, it aims to make war between the Provinces impossible; and it can be said that it has succeeded.

Conditions of poor health not only cause great numbers of deaths each year, but also are responsible for rendering huge sections of the population incapable of contributing their normal share of effort to the good of society.

I am, Sir, etc., LEWIS DUNCAN, Toronto.

TEACHERS HANDICAPPED

Sir.—In the modern progressive school everything is controlled by switches except the pupils. The author of "Educational Wastelands" compares the lot of teachers to that of the inmates of slave-labor camps.

Commenting on the foregoing passage, a Bronx teacher says: "Of course the kid is quite right about it. The same thing is true in New York City. A woman must have the hide of a rhinoceros to teach in the public schools."

In the hierarchy of the progressive school system, the teacher occupies a thankless position. She is doomed to oscillate perpetually between the Scylla of having to endure the insolence of legally undisciplinable pupils and the Charybdis of being plagued by little men in big places.

One of the remedial measures suggested by Canon Bell reads as follows: "Require that no one be given supervisory authority over teachers who has had less than five years of actual teaching experience."

I am, Sir, etc., W. J. ENRIGHT, Charlottetown

Indialogue

By Gerald Steele 4th Year S.D.U. Student

CONDITIONS AFFECTING HEALTH

India stands on the lowest rung of the world's public health ladder. It is impossible to move about in any village or town without realizing the terrible fact of human misery which in our day of scientific achievement does seem quite unnecessary.

Any of the factors mentioned above can be regarded as social, but certain other facts deserve special mention under this heading as affecting the health of Indians. Already we have shown how the practice of early marriage has increased the female mortality by 50%.

The main difficulties in regard to health may be considered under four headings: economic environment, educational and social in the last 10 years the cost of living has increased almost four times over its pre-war level while wages have risen but little.

As far as sanitation is concerned, it might best be described as non-existent. Now through the efforts of social workers, more villages are beginning to realize that there is a definite connection between sickness and unsanitary practices and that they can and must do something about conditions which they have always considered as normal.

It is a pleasant story neither for the reader nor much less for the person who lives it. But it is real and millions know its full meaning. They know what it is to have a body destroyed by forces they cannot determine; to be utterly helpless in the face of the unknown; to be without the assistance of professional medical advice from birth until death.

I wonder if they ever think we should share just a little more, at least a part of what we waste wantonly. I wonder too what they

Housing as it is we have seen to be most inadequate in every way and conducive to general ill-health. The matter is complicated by the complete lack of any housing whatsoever among the millions who roam about as refugees and derelicts. For instance, Bombay State with a population of 36 million has over two million people with no housing of any kind. These men, women and children live in almost unimaginable misery, roaming the countryside or the streets of cities.

The lack of education as a factor to ill-health, effects not only the prevention of disease but also the cure. Over 80% of Indians can neither read or write. This does not mean that they are unintelligent; in fact they are quite wise in the experience of life.

These figures are alarming even as they are, but that is not all. 80% of these doctors are in India's few cities which contain only 20% of her population. Thus 20% of her doctors are responsible for 80% of her people (or in our terms, four doctors for the people of P.E.I.)

It is a pleasant story neither for the reader nor much less for the person who lives it. But it is real and millions know its full meaning. They know what it is to have a body destroyed by forces they cannot determine; to be utterly helpless in the face of the unknown; to be without the assistance of professional medical advice from birth until death.

I wonder if they ever think we should share just a little more, at least a part of what we waste wantonly. I wonder too what they

Notes By The Way

Magnificent highways, hundreds of years old, have been traced in Peru. But apparently the people who built them were too primitive to evolve an accident toll. —Hamilton Spectator.

Sadly we have to agree with the remark of an American housing expert that "glamour built into kitchen and bathroom sells more houses today than any other factor." It is astonishing how many people are so blinded by a gleaming array of kitchen and bath equipment that they can't see poor planning in the rest of the house, notably the absence of a decent-sized unbroken wall in bedrooms. —Brantford Expositor.

Iceland recently became the thirty-first country to sign the convention on political rights of women, adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations. By signing the convention, Iceland is helping to strengthen the global movement for women's emancipation, since women in that country have for many years enjoyed the rights set out in it.

So far as we know the Business and Professional Women's Association has not subsidized the Research Council for Economic Security, a Chicago organization which is going up and down the United States making a study of sickness in industry. Employers are interested for they would like some sort of guide in making estimates as to how many employees they should make provision for. The study is being conducted for 70 per cent of the long absences caused by illness against 30 per cent for women. The report is only about half completed, the survey reported upon covering 1,212 absences, all for more than four consecutive weeks and caused by non-occupational disabilities. —Winnipeg Free Press.

Old Charlottetown

(And P. E. I.)

NORTH AMERICAN BANK

A meeting of the shareholders of the North American Bank was held at the Commercial Inn last evening, when it being found that the number of shares allotted to this Island had been subscribed for, arrangements were made for remitting the first instalment, etc. The meeting agreed to recommend the Hon. John Brecken and William Mackintosh, Esq., as directors for managing the affairs of the Bank in this Island.

—Royal Gazette, Oct. 18, 1836

The Poet's Corner

MUSIC I HEARD

Music I heard with you was more than music. And bread I broke with you was more than bread; Now that I am without you, all is dead. All that was once so beautiful is dead.

—Conrad Aiken.

The Age Old Story

And when they were come to the place which is called Calvary, there they crucified him, and the malefactor, one on the right hand, and the other on the left. Then said Jesus, Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do. . . . It was about the sixth hour, and there was darkness over all the earth until the ninth hour. And the sun was darkened, and the veil of the temple was rent in the midst.

PROFESSIONAL CARDS

Advertisement for professional services including Chas. R. McQuaid (Barrister, Solicitor, Notary), H. J. Mabon, R.O. (Optometrist), M. Alban Farmer, Q.C. (Barrister and Solicitor), Palmer & Haslam (Bank of Commerce Building), Dr. W. R. Carson (Chiropractor), Dr. A. L. MacIsaac (Dentist), Dr. K. A. MacEachern (Dentist), and H. R. Doane & Company (Chartered Accountants).