

Covers Prince Edward Island Like the Dew... Published every week day morning at 160 Prince Street...

WEDNESDAY, MAY 23, 1956

The High Seas

In the opinion of the National Geographic Society, one of the most pressing problems of modern times has to do with the high seas.

In former days, and under less legalistic formulas, the sea belonged to whatever nation possessed the power to control it.

In an attempt to bring some order out of the present chaotic situation, the International Law Commission, an agency of the United Nations, is drawing up new rules which, it is hoped, will receive general acceptance.

A Delusion

When the visiting Russian leaders offered Britain a new trade agreement amounting to several billion dollars worth a year for a five-year period, much of it in "non-strategic" goods, British government and industrial leaders naturally were in favour of starting negotiations in the matter, since any increase in export trade is of great importance to the country's economy.

In order to sell, say, \$2 billion worth of legitimate goods, British exporters would have to include in their shipments another billion dollars worth of potential war materials; which, of course, they will not—and cannot, under existing regulations—agree to do.

Science vs. Swallows

Unless we are greatly mistaken, the town of Cleethorpes, Eng., is in for a lot of favourable publicity, its citizens having made a new venture in courage by parting company with official weather forecasters and setting up their own system based on the antics of swallows and gnats.

sand, a cat eating grass. Everybody knows—everybody except the forecasters, that is—that all these things indicate that rain is in the offing.

The weather experts scoff at these old-fashioned signs and portents. That's fair enough, since those who believe in them scoff at the weather experts and their strange talk.

A New Plan

In an address before the annual convention of the International Ladies Garment Workers Union at Atlantic City, Hugh Gaitskill, leader of Britain's Labour Party, suggested that all foreign aid should be channelled through the United Nations.

This idea did not originate with Mr. Gaitskill. It has been talked about off and on for some time; and we seem to recall that it was mentioned at the recent meeting of NATO foreign ministers.

The general opinion among Asians—if one may judge by official statements which are quoted from time to time—seems to be that both the United States and the Soviet Union are using economic aid as a political bribe.

EDITORIAL NOTES

His many Island friends will join in felicitations to Mr. Cyrus Ching, who has been honoured at Washington on the occasion of his eightieth birthday anniversary.

The trouble about the latest Soviet decision to reduce the size of their armed forces is that there is no way of keeping check on it. In fact, Western governments are not at all sure that the first "reduction" announced several months ago has actually been brought about.

United States Secretary of Agriculture says he is glad "for the farmer's sake" that farm prices in the midwest have increased 4% since January.

Pakistan hopes to be able to get along without outside economic aid by 1960. This is taken to mean that Moscow's offer of big scale assistance will be turned down.



BROADWAY, P. E. I.

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.

OLD STEWART RESIDENCE

Sir,—The picture of the old stone house near Princetown in The Guardian of the 21st brings to mind pleasant visits to the late Malcolm McGougan and family, who disposed of it to Mr. Melville Bryenton some twenty-five years ago, and who about fifteen years later pulled it down to make way for a new house.

It was as stated erected in 1820 by Colonel Charles Stewart. He was not however the Chief Justice, nor was he the son of the Chief Justice.

Colonel Charles Stewart was the son of Robert Stewart of Malpeque who was Speaker of the first session of the Island Legislature in 1773, and who married Annabella, a sister of the Chief Justice. By this union there were eight children. Colonel Stewart married Barbara, daughter of Captain John Stewart, Master of the ship Annabella, wrecked at Malpeque. There were seven children. One daughter Annabella married Thomas MacNutt of Malpeque in 1811 and had a family of twelve children.

The following is the inscription on the monument in the Malpeque Cemetery:

"In Memory of Thomas MacNutt, Died 18th day of April, 1861 in the 77th year of age. Also his beloved wife Annabella, daughter of the Late Colonel Charles Stewart, Died Jan. 1st, 1847 age 94 years.

"God's Mercy I Will Ever Sing.

"Ps. LXXX" I believe the above is correct. I am, Sir, etc. T.E.M.

OUR YESTERDAYS

From The Guardian Files TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO (May 23, 1931)

A recent despatch from Washington announces the appointment of Col. Robert U. Patterson, formerly of Charlottetown, as head of the United States Army Medical Corps, with the rank of Major General.

The shipping season has now arrived, judging by the number of vessels and steamers that are beginning to call at this port. Shipping should exceed former years. For instance, in 1929 forty-five vessels and twenty steamers called here.

The temperature of 72 yesterday was the highest registered so far this season. A soft south westerly breeze with bright warm sunshine was an incentive to all.

TEN YEARS AGO

The CGS Saurel and CGS Brant are busy putting out the last loads of buoys. All the buoys around Prince Edward Island have been placed. The few to be placed around the Magdalen Islands and Cape Breton are still in port ready for shipment.

Starting as soon as the roads are passable a new bus service will go into operation, between Charlottetown and Summerside through North Wiltshire, Springton, Rose Valley and Kinkora. The company will be known as the Central Bus Line Ltd., with Mr. W.L. Jones, president.

MARILYN GRADUATES

TORONTO (CP)—Marilyn Bell, the only person to swim across Lake Ontario, received her graduation diploma from Loretto College School Sunday at St. Peter's Roman Catholic Church. Miss Bell, 18, swam 32 miles across Lake Ontario in September, 1954 and last year became the youngest person to swim the English channel. She entered Loretto college because her Protestant parents wanted her to be educated in a convent. Last summer Miss Bell became a Roman Catholic.

OTTAWA REPORT

The Robot Revolution

By Patrick Nicholson

What does automation hold in store for us?

There are widely different opinions on this in different countries. West Germany sees immediate prosperity in selling robots to other countries. The British worker sees the robot revolution as a dire capitalist plot to rob him of his present unprecedented prosperity.

The American worker has grasped the fact that automation's greater production will mean an expanded industry with more jobs and a higher standard of living.

The automatic factory will not only produce more goods at a lower unit cost; it will produce goods of higher quality and greater consistency than does the human worker.

A typical example is in the Chrysler engine plant at Detroit. There five men working at two machines were able to turn out 38 units of a certain component every hour. Now one man supervising ten automatics can produce 750 units every hour.

These figures point to a disheartening 99 percent of workers becoming redundant on that one job. But this overlooks the need for a huge new industry to design, manufacture and service robot machines. It also overlooks the multiplied demand for consumer goods of all kinds, from automobiles to beer, springing from the higher wages and longer leisure of the robot era.

In typical automated plants in the American television, radio and electronics industries, robots are doing as much in eighty seconds as

a human worker previously took an eight-hour day to complete. Enormous strides have been made in automation in these industries, so that receiving sets are being turned out entirely unattended by human hands. Circuits of radio sets no longer consist of a maze of soldered wires; they are "printed" on sheets of paper, on which the components are then assembled.

One interesting example of the miracles of automation opens up a shattering new field in the battle between the dictator and the individual. Recording machines can memorize the tones of any human voice, and then piece together those tones in entirely new sequences. Thus they can now create Caruso singing "White Christmas", which was composed twenty years after his death. Thus, too, those robots could produce lifelike recordings of you and me saying words which we never uttered. This opens a fertile field for witch-hunts and brain washing.

WORKERS OUT IN 10 YEARS

Economists estimate that leading American industries will be fully automated within ten years at a cost of only six billion dollars, yet replacing four out of five workers by robot machinery.

American labour leaders are therefore planning steps to land on their feet in a crisis, if unplanned. Relocation of labour is the obvious major step, and a huge opening awaits those who will learn to design, build, tool, sell and service the robots.

Walter Reuther predicts that

Medically Speaking

By Herman N. Sundesen, M. D.

RADIOACTIVITY IN AIR ISN'T DANGEROUS TO US. When we think of radiation most of us automatically think of atomic explosions.

Actually, however, all of us are continually exposed to external radiations. These radiations are of natural origin and are harmless because they are so diluted. RAD:ACTIVE SUBSTANCES

Our bodies normally accumulate minute—but measurable—amounts of substances that are radioactive.

The earth itself, the air we breathe, even our homes, emanate measurable quantities of radioactivity. CONSERVATIVE ESTIMATE

It's conservatively estimated that just one square mile of surface soil, only one foot deep, contains an average of one gram of radium, three tons of uranium and six tons of thorium. All are radioactive.

Penetrating radioactive cosmic rays from outer space are in our air. And the earth's gaseous decay products, thoron and radon, are readily breathed into our lungs.

SENSITIVE INSTRUMENTS The water we drink and the food we eat also contain substances, the radioactivity of which can be detected by sensitive instruments.

Our homes, too, and other structures made of concrete, brick or wood give off measurable amounts of radioactivity.

Right now, the plaster walls in your home or office probably are had a detector, you could even measure the amount. HARMLESS AMOUNT

Now this radioactivity is so slight that it is harmless. However, as we continue to detonate radioactive substances, radiation, of course, is being built up. Yet, even with fallout from atomic explosions, there still is a sizable safety margin.

With radioactivity all around us, we can't escape it. And while we must learn to regulate it safely, as we continue to refine and concentrate radioactive materials, scientists assure us we are in no danger now.

QUESTION AND ANSWER

Mrs. A.L.: Can a baby be delivered successfully by cesarean section after the mother's death?

Answer: Many cases have been reported in which a living baby section after the mother's death.

robots will fill man's basic material needs, thus freeing enough time for man's full development in the social, cultural and spiritual fields, which constitute the real meaning of life.

This change, probably reaching across Canada only a year or two after it blankets the States, will bring immense changes in all our lives. I foresee the shortened work bringing an immense increase in hobbies. It will, I suppose, bring unprecedented prosperity to the peddlars of liquor and hence a bloody orgy on our highways. It will fill every home with gadgets in profusion, and hence cause a rash of home holocausts until we all get rewired to carry the increased load.

If we knew more about the coming change, we would already be retooling and redesigning our ways to meet the automated life. But in this respect, lacking a positive lead by government, management and labour, the country seems to be dimly failing to look forward.

NOTES BY THE WAY

A giant frying pan has been designed to allow the cooking of eight chickens at once. Just the thing to have when unexpected visitors drop in at the summer cottage.—Toronto Star

It's quite probable that few people were aware, until the report of the Institute of Seaweed was published the other day, that the seaweed harvest of our Scottish shores is worth 1,000,000 pounds annually.—Manchester Guardian

There was a record low rate in infant mortality in England and Wales last year. The 11,518 deaths among infants under four weeks old in 1955 represented a rate of 17.3 a thousand related live births, compared with the previous lowest figure of 17.7, recorded in 1953 and 1954.—London Times

It is a wonder that a white line hasn't been painted alongside the edge of the highway long ago. The effectiveness of white fence posts, painted with a fluorescent glow for the period after dark, has saved many a motorist from plunging into oblivion rounding a curve. With eyes glued to the edge of the highway, it would seem only logical that it be clearly marked for night driving.—Brookville Recorder

When an Italian husband came home and informed his wife he had been fired, she took things in her own hands—namely a club. She beat him into unconsciousness and then went and clubbed his erstwhile boss into the same condition. It isn't related whether the man got his job back, but probably both he and the boss learned a lesson. The man will stick to his job after this, providing no excuse for dismissal, and the boss will think twice about firing anyone else.—Windsor Star

An elderly man held by the police at Kitchener was travelling light so far as baggage was concerned, but the thirty-six pockets in the clothing he was wearing yielded enough contents to fill a bushel basket. Charged with vagrancy, the seventy-year-old man was found to be wearing three suitscoats, three shirts, three scarves, one vest and a trench coat. That eliminated the necessity of carrying a suitcase and besides he explained, he put them all on because he didn't want to lose them.—Saint John Telegraph Journal

This is the time of year when husbands have cricks in the back. It stalls off helping with the housecleaning.—Sarnia Canadian Observer

Another example of a chain reaction occurs when a woman starts out to move an ashtray and ends up by re-arranging the furniture.—Kitchener-Waterloo Record

The American Government seems to realize what Mr. Pearson has been telling it for several years that NATO must continue as a military alliance and cannot afford to reduce its military strength, but if it is to live long, flourish and expand it must begin very late, to think in economic and political terms, especially in terms of trade. For trade, more than anything else, much more than aid, will unite the partners.—Victoria Times

An elderly man walked into a Fort William bank this week and handed a teller a 10 dollar bill. Naturally she thought he wanted it deposited to his account. She started to make out a deposit slip and asked him his name. The young lady couldn't find an account under that name, so she asked him if it was a new account he wanted to open. The man shook his head. After a lot of confusion and fuss, the truth came out. The name he had given was a brand of Scotch whisky. He had come into the wrong building. Fort William Times-Journal

What's The Truth About Bridey Murphy?

Under hypnosis a housewife recalled a "previous life"; gave eerily factual details about how she grew up a century ago in Ireland—even how she watched her own funeral.

June Reader's Digest brings you the story behind the story that has gripped everyone's imagination—and the attempts of doctors and scientists to explain it. Get your June Reader's Digest today; 38 articles of lasting interest condensed to save time.

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OLD MEN IN A LIBRARY

What magnet draws them back, day after day.

To sit in silence at these polished tables

While time's slow pulse ticks hours and years away?

What alchemy of printer's ink enables

The self to lose itself a little while in other people's thoughts and

griefs and wars?

The old men seldom speak and rarely smile.

Their reading is the solemnest of chores.

As though they mined some arduous terrain

In hope of gold. Whatever it may be

They seek, may heaven help them to obtain:

The meaning of life's long complexity

Peace, or some gem of truth the soul would know—

Or just something to do, some place to go.

—R.H. Grenville, in the New York Herald Tribune.