

THE GUARDIAN

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CIRCULATION

"Covers Prince Edward Island like the dew"

"The Strongest Memory is Weaker Than the Weakest Ink"

CHARLOTTETOWN, SATURDAY, AUG. 30, 1952

Labour Day

Labour Day is so designated in honour of organized labour, a movement which followed and tried to keep pace with the industrial revolution.

The history of the Labour movement has been the shifting of this balance. When unions were disproportionately small they were unable to deal on equal terms with well organized management.

In this Province there has been considerable common sense demonstrated by the leaders of organized labour. We have not yet developed a great deal of industry but there is no record of an existing industry being closed out because of trouble with labour.

The Better Half

The Ottawa Citizen notes that a recommendation that the Succession Duty Act be amended to allow a wife possession of one-half of her husband's estate, thereby exempting that half from succession duties.

The Canadian women's contention that half of the husband's income should be regarded as belonging to his wife, says the Citizen, is shared by Federal taxation authorities in the United States.

Canadian taxation authorities, however, have frowned on the idea of a division of incomes or estates. Under the Succession Duty Act, as amended some time ago, estates up to \$50,000 are exempted, but at that point taxes are levied on the amount of the estate left after payment of certain debts, and deductions.

There are several reasons, says the Citizen, for the Federal government's preference for this system over the American. The most obvious is the possible loss of public revenue. Estates of up to \$100,000 would no longer be taxable if the wife were allowed possession of one-half.

Building Personalities

There is much food for thought in an address recently given by Mr. Justice Roy Kellock, of the Supreme Court of Canada, on the importance of the right kind of education in the building of personality.

"It is not true to say, as we are sometimes wont to say," Judge Kellock conceded, "that a mere trade or professional training does no more for a man than merely to make a skilful, practical tool out of him. It does more than that. It makes him as well a judge of other men's skill. He gets to understand the difference between second-rate and first-rate work in his own field, and thus to have a fair sense of what good work may mean elsewhere.

"But proper study of the humanities goes far beyond that. It enables a man to appreciate what types of activity have stood the tests of time. It gives him a general sense of what superiority has al-

ways signified and may still signify—admiration for the really admirable, and disesteem of what is trashy and impermanent. We who have been given the opportunity of studying the humanities ought to have an educated instinct for the better kind of man and be able to discriminate with respect to quality in men and their proposals when we enter the world of affairs about us.

This is another way of saying that true education is a development from within, not something to be imposed from without. This has been said many times before, but its importance to students and teachers remains unchanged.

Russia Unresponsive

A recent announcement from Moscow told of the development of more than 20 new varieties of frost-resisting tomatoes, cucumbers, and cabbages for cultivation in the north. Canada, notes the Windsor Star, also has done considerable research along that line, particularly in the development of fast-maturing wheat. This is a study in which the results of experimentation should be exchangeable, for their mutual profit. But Soviet Russia doesn't exchange—it only takes.

The Star recalls that toward the end of the war, when official Moscow was in better repute than now, Canada made some gestures at the parliamentary level toward co-operation in northern development. The Kremlin proved unresponsive.

With a more approachable nation on the Asiatic side of the Bering Strait, northern development in both lands would be expedited. Russia appears to be far in advance of us in this regard, largely because of its ancient program of forced colonization in Siberia. But on the strictly scientific level Canada could give a fair exchange for the information Russia would choose to share.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Tomorrow, 12th Sunday after Trinity.

The P. E. I. Medical Society concludes its annual meeting today. There are few human activities in which greater progress has been made in recent years than in medicine, but every advance brings its own problems for the physician and for the profession.

Jersey cattle breeders will be coming to this country in 1954. The Council of the World Jersey Cattle Bureau in London, England, has accepted an invitation from the President of the Canadian Jersey Cattle Club to hold the next world conference in Canada in 1954.

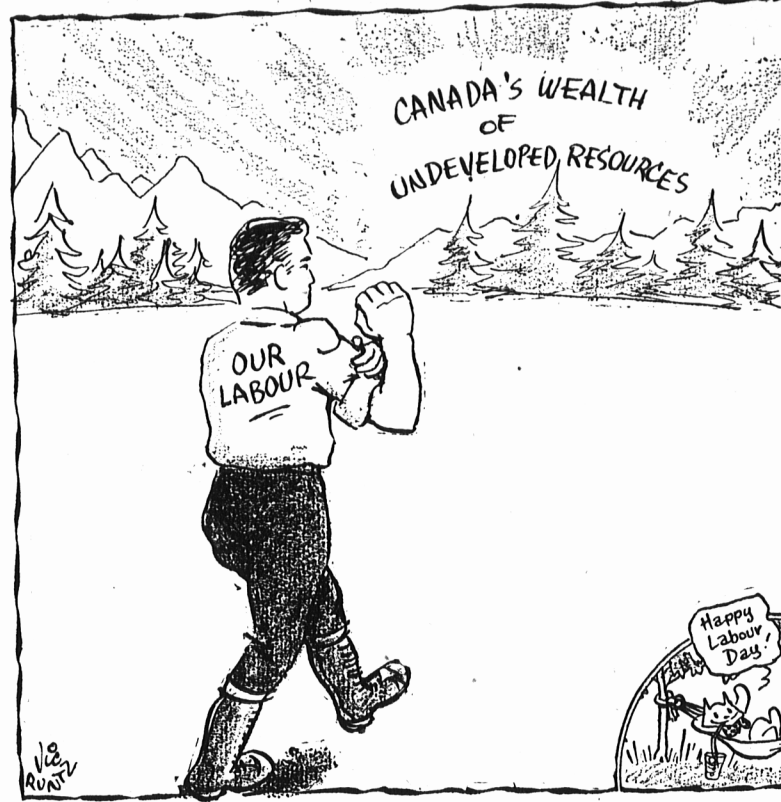
Once more Canada is to have an R. C. A. F. wing stationed in France, the advance party having left from Montreal Friday. Like other countries of the United Nations, Canada recognizes the applicability of the illustration of the bundle of sticks. Although any one of them might readily be broken, the bundle was quite another matter.

Sir Joseph John Thompson, British physicist, died this date 1940. He was associated with Cambridge throughout his life. Researches showing that electricity has mass resulted in the discovery of the electron. The study of physical chemistry is largely founded on his work. He proved that all matter is made of electricity and that electricity is atomic in nature.

Fluorescent lighting may be comparatively new in electricity, but it is an old story in nature. Many astronomers believe, notes the National Geographic Society, that fluorescence makes the only difference between dark and brilliant nebulosities of stellar dust in the sky. Those near a brilliant star are charged with light and electricity and shine brightly, while those with no near-by bright body appear as faint spots in the heavens.

About 175,000 new homes have now been provided in Scotland under the post-war housing programme. This means that roughly one family in every eight or nine has moved into a new house since the end of the war. The latest census figures show that there are in Scotland about 1,400,000 houses, an increase of 250,000 or 22 per cent over 1931. In another ten years at the present rate of progress 250,000 more will be built, which, by 1962, should provide one house for every three persons in Scotland.

To Meet The Challenge



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.

NO PLACE LIKE HOME

Sir,—Home... That magic place that may mean anything from the east side of New York to the smallest hamlet on Prince Edward Island. To many, it is the place where we were born... where we learned our three R's, where our parents lived and are buried, the place we come to for a rest after many years "away".

We rush to the great cities... rush all the time we are there and suddenly... one has to slow down; the years have taken their toll and health becomes a precious thing that perhaps one may regain after a good rest. The medics advise quiet and fresh air; "quiet"... Where do we go? If we are lucky, to Prince Edward Island... to live in the past for a little while, to find again the lost meaning of many things.

Perhaps some old friends from your class of the early 1900's are back also for a vacation... then there are reunions and reminiscences... School days. "Remember the time you had to recite at the closing exercises? It may have been 'The Charge of the Light Brigade' or perhaps 'Mary Stuart's Farewell'... All the emotions of youth, the vague unrest of Spring, your voice accompanied by the stilled gestures, learned one by one with the lines; the awkward bow at the end and the blind stumbling into the wings. The applause that you could not distinguish from the mad pounding of your heart. Then the grand moment of the "encore"... What did Sarah Bernhardt have that you didn't?

Do you remember the times you went fishing with your dad? He would take you if you had been good, but you had to promise not to tell mamma that he chewed tobacco while the speckled trout played with the Parmachenee Bell that was so expertly cast on the still waters of the pond.

Do you remember the pets you had? Cats, dogs, rabbits, even a pet hen that no one wanted to kill... even if it meant no meat for Christmas dinner that year. Remember the prettiest girl in your class? She married early and is now the proud grandmother of many. Her figure may not be as trim but look at the snapshots of her latest grandchild! To her that's compensation. What happened the little girl who used to draw all the time instead of studying?... And the "dumbbell" who made such a success in the States?

Thus the afternoon goes...

The Poet's Corner

LIFE STORY

Betrayed each time by one of many selves. He treads in puzzlement the cat-combe Of life ahead, a fugitive who delves For gold by candlelight with other gnomes. He rests and reads aghast of men's intrigue. Of women charmingly unsafe, in league With guiles. But nothing startles him like late Accounts of what, revealed in recent deeds, He knows is just his own biography: Events that showed him brittle-frail as reeds, And crisis when, though weak, he valiantly Fought back, and times when head held high, he slipped. A queer and terrifying manuscript.

The Age-Old Story

And the men of Gibeon sent unto Joshua to the camp to Gilgal, saying, Slack not thy hand from thy servants; come up to us quickly, and save us, and help us: for all the kings of the Amorites that dwell in the mountains are gathered together against us. So Joshua ascended from Gilgal, he, and all the people of war with him, and all the mighty men of valour. And the Lord said unto Joshua, Fear them not: for I have delivered them into thine hand; there shall not a man of them stand before thee... Then spake Joshua to the Lord in the day when the Lord delivered up the Amorites before the children of Israel, and he said in the sight of Israel, Sun, stand thou still upon Gibeon; and thou, Moon, in the valley of Ajalon. And the sun stood still, and the moon stayed, and the people had avenged themselves upon their enemies. Is not this written in the book of Jasher? So the sun stood still in the midst of heaven, and hasted not to go down about a whole day. And there was no day like that before it or after it, that the Lord hearkened unto the voice of a man; for the Lord fought for Israel.

asking questions about this and that one... The old house is empty now... The ghosts of the many visitors who filled it's hospitable rooms seem to be around... The grandparents: stately "gran" perie who was a scholar, also a gentleman and judge of good whisky. Grandmother, the head of the household, whose cooking was something to rave about, and who prayed that her only son would never be successful in politics. "What chance have I got, if you pray that I lose? ... but why, Mother?" ... Her soft answer: "It would be your damnation, son"... The son never did win an election and died betrayed by his so-called friends.

The mother you adored, gentle and kind, but with the proverbial iron hand that made things turn out for the best... The husband that you married late in life, but that was all the things you had dreamed of with his kindness, generally and consideration who understood your vague gropings towards things you could never achieve... All gone now, and you sit in the old house looking at old pictures, remembering and hoping that soon you will see them all again... for then, you will truly be HOME again.

I am, Sir, etc. ALMA BUOTE New York City.

FLEXIBLE SOLES. Leather soles adapt themselves to your foot because they are made of natural cowhide.

Old Charlottetown

And P. E. I.

RETIREMENT BY BALLOT

"The City Council met last evening, and having ordered the publication of the city accounts, and transacting some business of minor importance, proceeded to ballot for retiring Councilmen. The Mayor suggested that the Councilors draw lots. The ballot being between the Councilors of each ward, he said, two lots—a short one and a long one—be placed in an envelope. The senior Councilor of the ward drawing first, perchance, draws the long one. If so, he retains his seat; if not, he vacates it. "Councilor Murphy remarked that a similar ballot was taken before in this way. Two pieces of paper were nicely folded and placed in a hat. On one of these the word 'Go' was written. The senior Councilor of the ward drew first. If the word 'Go' appeared on his ballot, he was immediately stripped of the distinguished honour attached to his office, and he lost the high-sounding appendage to his name, 'Esquire, C. C.' But Councilor Murphy, in order to let unfortunate Councilors down easily, suggested that instead of the word 'Go' the word 'Retire' be written on the ballot.

"This plan was, on motion, adopted; and the Mayor hurriedly prepared the ballots, writing 'Retire' on the fatal ballot, and folding the blank identically to it. In doing so he was keenly eyed by the Councilors who with something approaching awe awaited the drawing.

"The ballots being arranged, the Mayor placed two in his great black hat and held it over his desk. The Councilors for Ward 1 rose in their place and walked towards the hat. They looked anxious. Both seemed determined to win. Senior Councilor Morris was the first to draw. As his hand rose from the hat a twinkle in his eye told he had 'game' in it. Councilor Ings then drew, and as he turned towards his seat he exclaimed 'Retire!' He then walked towards the chamber entrance amid rounds of laughter. The Mayor addressed him: 'Stay where you are Councilor Ings. 'Councilor Ings!' Excuse me. Then came the drawing between Councilors Murphy and Byrne of Ward 2. Councilor Byrne drew 'Retire', as did Councilor Blake in Ward 3. Councilor Beer in Ward 4 and Councilor Horne in Ward 5.

"The drawing afforded much amusement to the gods in the auditorium if we may judge from the bursts of laughter which greeted the unlucky Councilors. The Councilors who retain their seats are Morris, Ward 1; Murphy, Ward 2; Davy, Ward 3; Lawson, Ward 4; and Smith, Ward 5. "At the conclusion the minutes of the meeting were read and adopted. Councilor Byrne made a good

The Passing Scene

By Observer

WHICH WAY LABOUR?

Since the "Knights of Labour" held their first parade in New York in 1882 organized labour has come a long way. It may be correct to say that the growth of the Labour Movement, especially in English speaking countries, is one of the outstanding social phenomena of the past half century. While Labour, as a political party, has been called upon to form governments only in England, Australia, and New Zealand, it has achieved tremendous political influence in Canada and the United States.

In the latter country especially it is not too much to say that Labour Unions are virtually the makers of federal administrations and, to a large extent, the designers of their domestic policies. What is more, the entire economic life of the nation depends largely on the goodwill of Labour leaders. Someone has said that regardless of who sits in the White House, John L. Lewis is the real President of the United States, and there is much truth in the statement. Certainly no other man has ever exercised such over-all economic power in any democratic country.

In Canada there is no quite parallel situation probably because there is no such dominant personality in the ranks of our labour leaders. But here too organized Labour is in an extremely strong position in economic affairs. Whether or no this is the century of the "common man", it is certainly the century of the union man. Political scientists, economists, sociologists, may debate the situation as much as they please and write heavy tomes about it, but there is not much they can do to change it.

The privileges now enjoyed by working men (I use the term, of course, in its traditional sense) have not come to them as gifts. Many things they now take for granted were secured only after much struggle by pioneers of the Labour Movement. They have had to fight every inch of the way, for progress in social relationships, as in anything else, does not come easily, and never any victory without conflict.

No reasonable person will begrudge working men any advantage they have been able to secure through corporate united action. In the main these advantages have been well earned and well deserved. If we take factory workers by way of illustration, there is no comparison between their lot and that of similar employees only thirty or forty years ago. In every segment of industry the betterment of conditions in the past two or three decades has been nothing less than amazing, thanks largely to organized Labour and the political influence they have been able to command.

Many statutes now on the law books of almost every civilized country were unknown at the turn of this century. Child labour, one of the biggest social problems of past years, is now only a distant memory. The exploitation of poor women, forced to "stitch, stitch, in poverty, hunger, and dirt" for a pittance insufficient to buy a loaf of bread, seems incredible to present day workers. Nevertheless it was typical of the degradation of labour before the workers themselves began to take a hand and have a voice in their own affairs. Workmen's Compensation Acts, Group Insurance Plans, Health and Accident benefits, reasonable working hours, and scores of other privileges, are today normal things in industry. No doubt a more enlightened public opinion in social matters helped to bring them about, but it is certain they would not have come to such rapid expansion but for the united pressure of men and women banded together in Labour Unions. Nor has the resulting good been confined to the workers.

While these conferences have not been as spectacular as some others on the national scene, and therefore less newsworthy, they are nevertheless of considerable importance. Many fine things have come out of them, the building of a common goal, the chief-ling of a more satisfactory and democratic way of life.

lined to working men and their families. It has been felt by every social group, and in some way it has benefited every man, woman, and child. We are beginning to see that no community can properly be divided into compartments with one isolated from all others. The Scriptural injunction that we are "members one of another" is being more and more accepted as just plain common sense. The once familiar and often disparaging term "working-class" is not heard so much nowadays. Some-how it seems much too old-fashioned and archaic. The word "hands" as once applied to men who did manual labour of one kind and another is virtually extinct. All this is symptomatic of the new dignity that has come to labour, and we are all the better for it.

It would, of course, be foolish to suggest that all is well with the Labour Movement or that its influence on the life of society generally has been always and altogether good. Like every other human institution it has not been without its perverse elements. Sometimes, indeed, Labour Unions have been stupid in their methods and tyrannical in their tactics, unmindful of the general welfare. The use of the strike weapon, which in itself is perfectly legitimate and normally defensible, has sometimes jeopardized the economy of entire communities and nations. We have seen instances of that right here in Canada, and whenever and wherever it happens it is a blot on the escutcheon of Labour. No special group, even when their demands are righteous, should be permitted to render impotent the transportation facilities or essential industry of any country. This is sabotage of the most despicable sort.

But here, too, it must be remembered that Union leaders are not all alike any more than, say, industrial or church leaders are all alike. On the whole they seem to be men of honesty and vision, anxious to give good leadership in the offices to which they are elected by their fellows. Now and then a Union or some branch of it is dominated by self-seeking, over-ambitious individuals, and resulting situation is full of chaos and danger. This is one of the risks that have to be taken in any democratic procedure, and it is to the credit of our Labour Unions that members that more often than they elevate men of good and far judgment to posts of trust and responsibility.

It must be remembered also that Labour Unions are still relatively new institutions in economic and industrial affairs. They have not yet "grown up" and in the process it must be expected that some of the irresponsibility of youth will assert itself from time to time. There will be many trials and errors before they will have reached full and mature stature. In this they are no different from any other institution that has taken its place in the aspirations and hopes of mankind.

It can safely be assumed that Labour Unions and their many subsidiaries are here to stay. As the years go by they will increase in strength. It is to be hoped that they will also increase in wisdom. To that end they will need help and guidance from every available source, and it would be unwise for other sections of society to leave them to "paddle their own canoe". In the United States this mutual assistance idea appears to be taking root. In the past two or three years several conferences have been held in various centres, attended by Labour, Church, Industrial, and Social leaders. The purpose is to try and find out by friendly discussion and mutual give-and-take how they can proceed to a better understanding of one another's viewpoints and thus be in a position to help one another.

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