The Guardian

"Covers Prince Edward Island Like the Dew"

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"The strongest memory is weaker than the weakest ink."

FRIDAY, JUNE 1, 1956

Deplorable Propaganda

The Chicago Tribune's extreme type of anglophobia is well known. If its editors were to say a good word for anything English or British it would be a miracle of the first order. When they say, however—as they are reported to have said in a recent issue—"we got into two world wars to bail out Britain when no American interest was at issue", one can only conclude that their sense of history is both tangled and humorous; for surely no words ever written were in sharper conflict with established facts.

The United States may have had good and sufficient reasons for staying out of both world wars until Britain had taken and survived the initial blow, which according to secret documents unearthed from German records was intended as a prelude to direct assault on the whole non-German world. But in any event there is plenty of evidence to prove that the Kaiser in world war one and Hitler in world war two would have made attractive peace terms with Britain if that country had given up the struggle before the Americans were ready or willing to take up arms. This is no secret now. It was well known, indeed, to the United States Government of that time; and even the Chicago Tribune must have heard of it. And does anyone seriously believe that the United States, after the fall of France, and in the event of Britain's accepting Hitler's terms, would have been able to keep the war from spreading to its own soil? All the American military experts who have written on the subject have said "no". The aid given to Britain —or loaned, as much of it was—by the United States in the dark days of 1940 and 1941 certainly helped the British to continue fighting; but no responsible American leader has ever suggested that it was of decisive importance.

The sad part about all such statements as the one quoted above is that they are being circulated at a time when Anglo-American goodwill is vital to the prevention of another world war. Fortunately, most leaders of both major political parties in the United States do not support the wild assertions. Nevertheless, they cannot fail to have a disquieting effect on some sections of American public opinion; and they create unnecessary illwill on both sides.

Farm Power Equipment

Fifty-five years ago the total value of machinery and equipment on Canadian farms was $108,665,000, according to the 1901 Census. Twenty years later it had risen over six times to $665,180,000, and in 1951 it was $1,933,000,000. Canadian farmers in 1941 reported ownership of 315,461 passenger cars and 77,480 motor trucks. In 1951 there were 329,667 passenger cars and 196,122 trucks, tractors had increased from 159,752 to 399,686 in the 10 years, and grain combines from 19,013 to 90,500.

Since the war the sales of tractors, combines and other farm machinery have risen to a very high level. Estimated value of farm implement and equipment sales, at wholesale prices, climbed from $122,400,000 in 1947 to $170,700,000 in 1948 and reached a peak of $250,277,000 in 1952. Sales fell off considerably in 1954 after the poor crop of that year. Separate figures are not available for sales of passenger cars and motor trucks to farmers but they have certainly been of substantial proportions and would swell greatly the total value of farm machinery and equipment purchases in the last few years.

Many requests are received by the Bureau of Statistics for information on the number of various types of farm equipment, particularly power equipment, both for Canada and the various provinces. Manufacturers of farm implements, other business people, advertisers and also farm organizations want to know how many tractors, trucks and cars there are on farms, how many combines there are and types of combines, how many gasoline engines and electric motors.

Questions about power equipment will be asked by the census takers when they call on farmers in June to take the 1956 Census. Farmers can save everybody time by having this information available before the enumerator calls.

Willing Volunteers

That not all prison inmates are callous uncompassionate individuals is proved, not for the first time, by a dispatch from the State Penitentiary in Ohio, which reports that 96 prisoners responded to a call for 25 volunteers to take part in an experiment in cancer research. The men selected will be given injections from malignant tumours. Doctors have explained that there is no great risk involved, since any damage will be noted almost immediately and surgery will then correct it. There is some risk, nevertheless, and the prisoners are well aware of it.

There have been many instances of this sort of co-operation by prisoners with medical science in the interests of public health. Why do they do it? Well, for some of them no doubt the will to live has declined after years of isolation from society; and they are not especially concerned as to whether or not they survive the experiment. But as regards most of them, it can reasonably be supposed that they are anxious to have a chance of paying their debt to society in a manner which has not been forced upon them by authority. Apparently, they do not get any credit, in the way of reduced sentences, for their valuable contributions to human welfare. Perhaps they should, especially when the crimes for which they were incarcerated were not major ones. After all, the main purpose of modern prisons is to reform the prisoners and persuade them to a better way of life. It would seem that a prisoner who is willing to risk his life or even his customary good health, for the benefit of others, has shown already a worthwhile tendency towards reform.

EDITORIAL NOTES

There are 24 Dublins in the United States, according to the National Geographic Society. Yes, and there isn't an Irishman in the country who wouldn't give them all, if he had them to give, for one little corner of the mother city.

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Violent quarrels in the Commons are to be deplored, unless they serve a good parliamentary purpose. Still, they are to be preferred at any time to the dull listless debates which so often feature the sessions. The British Parliament, the mother of them all, probably witnesses more noisy scenes in the run of a year than all the other Commonwealth parliaments combined.

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Excellent service is being performed by the Canadian Association of Consumers, whose national president, Mrs. H. E. Vautelet, C.B.E., is visiting the Province next week and will address the annual meeting of the Provincial branch on Tuesday evening. A prominent leader in social welfare work in Montreal, Mrs. Vautelet is one of the founding members of the Association and has headed the organization since September 1953.

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A United Church congregation in Toronto has petitioned the Governor-General to dissolve parliament and call an election on the current pipe-line dispute. The Governor-General, of course, acts on the advice of his ministers, who seem most unlikely to risk an election at this time. All the same, the fact that the petition has been sent, to be followed no doubt by others, is evidence of some public unrest over the government's handling of the controversial issue.

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That old chap from an old people's home who made himself the centre of interest at the recent spring horse show and sale in Calgary didn't have any money, but he certainly enjoyed himself. Making out that he was a farmer of means he made the highest bid on 19 horses. When time came for settlement he didn't have a cent to his name; so the horses had to be put back on the auction block. A bit of a rascal, yes; but it is hard not to admire him for his ability as an actor.

IT'S LEAP JUNE!

PUBLIC FORUM

MORE HOME THOUGHTS FROM ABROAD

Sir,—For the past several days I have been intending to write to my native Isle, but for some undefinable reason kept putting it off. Perhaps for more inspiration which came with last Monday's Guardian, received today. What memories Victoria Day and its celebrations, East and West, bring to mind! My eldest daughter—the only one Canadian born—just missed May 24 by two days. Although there was none of the usual holiday activity that year, there was much rejoicing in this branch of the Gordon clan.

I have just finished reading the fine Victoria Day editorial, and Ellen's Diary—May 19—on the Queen's Birthday. How correct she is in stating Queen Victoria's picture was on many a parlor wall in the olden days! I recall vividly both Queen Victoria's and Edward VII's, in all their royal regalia, occupied one wall in our old parlor. Enlarged pictures of ancestors accounted for wall decorations in the rest of the room. Of course the latter should have been hung on the walls of the spacious hall with its wide staircase and mahogany finished banister railing—doubtless succeeding generations of youngsters unconsciously assisted in keeping it highly polished by descending by the "quick" method to the lower floor.

According to modern ideas of correct decorating those portraits were all out of place, but as the parlor of those days was a very special room, only to be entered—except for cleaning—on special days and occasions such as Sundays and when guests were entertained, such placement was a testimony to the high regard in which they were held. Those sovereigns were indeed revered, beloved in our home, as I believe they are in all Commonwealth nations today. One has to be born under the British flag to really understand the meaning of the Royal Family and the loyalty and love British subjects voluntarily give their succeeding sovereigns. May it ever be thus; and from this U.S.A. I say: "God save Queen Elizabeth!" "Long may she reign!"

To return to our old parlor with its mahogany and horse-hair furniture and venetian blinds—green slats with wide white tape—of my grandfather's era. The wall-to-wall carpeting, which made spring cleaning in that room so difficult as the strips were tacked down and it had to be all taken up and cleaned outdoors while the floor underneath was scrubbed to the nth degree. The large what-not—which would really be considered special today—we took as a matter of course with its bric-a-bac, ornaments, etc., on the higher, smaller shelves, and books and our picture postcard albums on the lower.

The old family album was not in evidence then, but when I visited the old home in 1946 I found it in a closet and was given permission to help myself to any of the old photos I wanted—which I did. One of an uncle, I gave to my cousin—whom I hadn't seen since he was a lad of sixteen—in Winnipeg. Another I was happy to relinquish to another first cousin in Vancouver as it was especially fine of his eldest brother, who operated the mills at Bay View when I was a child. The others I kept as I find old photos, old houses, etc., interesting.

The idea of stressing old landmarks of pioneer days with notes I think is excellent. (Guardian May 21) I know that was one reason I liked "Coming Events in Britain" so much as it portrayed byways and old villages so wonderfully. However, P.E.Island's beaches are so superior to any to be found anywhere—or so I feel—that once a tourist has visited that Garden spot it sells itself according to Bruce Hutchison and needs no huckster methods of advertising. A niece recently sent me a copy of an old MacLean's Magazine issue containing Hutchison's, "Rediscovery of the Island." I think he really captured the spirit and did an excellent job of portraying it.

I followed with interest the Musical Festival held in Charlottetown—as I do all that is going on in my Native Province. I believe it was finer this year than ever! I also read Sir Ernest MacMillan's lecture (or the excerpts from same) in the Samuel N. Robertson Memorial series with equal interest, and noted his remarks re audience reaction to anything new.

Dr. Leslie Bell, of Toronto, in addressing the Rotary Club was a bit rough on T.V. fans (not one of them) in calling their pet entertainment "a modern monster." I assume he was referring to it as destroying children's initiative, or the do-it-yourself program. Television is neither as bad nor as good as some think, although in some cases it is terrible and again it could be excellent educationally. It is difficult though to interest the great majority in purely educational broadcasts. How well I know! as a few years back some educators and interested parties tried to raise funds to launch a non-commercial educational venture here.

This has lengthened and I haven't yet mentioned the topic nearest to the hearts of Islanders—the weather From several sources I've learned the weather-man has been most inconsiderate, with snow and frost around May 9, cold and rain continuing and the farmers unable to prepare the soil for planting. However I hope the past week you've been blessed with sunshine and more seasonal temperatures. We, too, here—if it is of any interest to Islanders—have been rather disgusted with our May weather-wise. We had rain and more during all the early part, then extremely hot days part of the past week. In fact, the temperature soared to an all time high of 95 and 30 plus smog; whatever the latter means I'm not quite sure. At any rate we were on a par with that fair city of Los Angeles to our south smog-wise. While there is a friendly rivalry between the cities, we in Oakland have no wish to compete with L.A., as smog has become an unsolved problem in the south.

With best wishes for plenty of sunshine, good crops and a banner tourist year for the "Million Acre Farm"; and a friendly Hello! to all who may be interested enough to read a Californian's musings.

I am Sir, etc.,
G.S GORDON
(MRS. D.J.)

Oakland, California

The Poet's Corner

IMPASSE

Volcanoes rage and empires fall
While centuries adjust
Earth's countenance to wear the calm
Demeanor of the dust.

While glaciers gravitate to stones
The soil meets such impasse
Relying on the inevitable
Resiliency of grass.

The mind deflects assault of age,
Bears chaos unperturbed
Yet can capitulate before
The onslaught of a word.

—Marilyn Eynon Scott
in the New York Times.

KEEPS WHOOPER VIGIL

NEW ORLEANS (AP)—George Douglass, Audubon park zoo director, took up a rooftop vigil Thursday, waiting to see whether a second whooping crane egg had hatched during the night. The first of the two eggs hatched Tuesday and the first whooping crane ever born in captivity emerged from its shell. Whoopers once numerous in this country, were down to 30 at the last official count.

SIX DROWN

STOCKHOLM (Reuters) — Five children and a 24-year-old barge captain who tried to save them were drowned Tuesday when the barge overturned on the Liakka river, Nederterneaa, Finland, it was reported here.

OUR YESTERDAYS

From The Guardian Files

TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO
(June 1, 1931)

Among the graduates at McGill University this year receiving the degree of Master of Science is Mr. John Lorne Howatt, B.S.A. (Plant Pathology, McGill), of Charlottetown.

The Airmail and Airport Committee of the Charlottetown Board of Trade met several times lately and committee members have been using their best endeavours to make possible the early opening of the airport at the property of Dr. J.S. Jenkins in West Royalty.

Rev. Joseph Walsh, Elliotvale, and Rev. Wilfred Dunphy, Millview, recent graduates of St. Augustine's Seminary, Toronto, were ordained to the holy priesthood yesterday by Bishop J.A. O'Sullivan at St. Joachim's Church, Vernon River.

TEN YEARS AGO
(June 1, 1946)

Beginning today consumers of raw milk in the Province will pay 10 cents per quart and 11 cents for pasteurized milk. This increase will neither benefit the farmer nor the milk distributor since the Government subsidy to the consumer has been withdrawn.

At the close of the day's work this evening the potato dehydration plant operated by Island Foods Inc. in Summerside will cease operations for the season. During the past year 600 tons of dehydrated potatoes were produced, which represents 18700 bushels or 250 carloads.

Mr. Gordon MacMillan, Cornwall, was elected president of the P.E.I. Fox Breeders and Exhibitors Association at their annual meeting yesterday.

Medically Speaking

By Herman N. Bundesen, M. D.

"OUNCE OF PREVENTION" MAY OUTWIT PYORRHEA

The older you get the more apt you are to develop pyorrhea. It can be a major dental problem of adults, although it seldom attacks youngsters.

Eventually, a great many of you, especially men, can expect to develop the condition to some extent. If left unchecked, pyorrhea generally spreads to the tooth sockets. The teeth then become loosened and are lost. So see your dentist at regular intervals for your health's sake.

EARLY TREATMENT

Yet, pyorrhea is preventable to a great extent. And once it does occur, early treatment may save your teeth.

Pyorrhea is a condition which attacks the tissues around your teeth. Generally, it results from an inflammation of the gums called gingivitis. A tendency of the gums to bleed easily may be the first indication that you have gingivitis.

This may be caused by any one of a number of things. Maybe a poor diet is to blame. Or maybe it's the collection of tartar at the necks of your teeth. Poor mouth hygiene and persistent wedging of food in the crevices between your teeth might be responsible.

SEVERAL CAUSES

Perhaps it may be caused by crowns, bridges or dental fillings which irritate your gums. Failure of your teeth to come together properly when chewing might be the cause.

The best way of preventing gingivitis and pyorrhea is to have your dentist cleanse your teeth regularly. Brushing your teeth after every meal, or at least twice a day, is a good idea, too.

Once the disorder has appeared, your doctor probably will recommend that you brush your teeth with a liquid dentifrice for which he can supply a prescription. Use of dental floss after each meal is also advisable.

Your doctor may also suggest use of potassium chlorate mouthwash (one teaspoon potassium chlorate in half a glass of warm water) after meals.

Hydrocortisone dental ointment may be applied to the gums to treat inflammation.

Massaging the gums and cleansing the teeth might help even after the disorder has started, but, as in most cases, it's usually easier to prevent the condition than to treat it.

QUESTION AND ANSWER

B.J.: Does cortisone help gout?

Answer: The new hormone ACTH and cortisone will help severe attacks of gout when it develops. However, they will not prevent attacks. Careful watching of the diet will often do this.

The Age Old Story

But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us, even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;) and hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus. for by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God.

LOIS FORGETS LUGGAGE

LONDON (CP) — Canadian soprano Lois Marshall, a triumphant London debut behind her, left without her luggage Wednesday when she flew to Germany, where she will give a concert. When she found it was too late to get her trunks she smiled: "Never mind. Shopping is one of my pet vices. I'll do it in Germany." Critics described her London performance as a major triumph.

Grammar Is For Duffers

Sydney J. Harris in the Ottawa Citizen

I have been following, with some interest, a lively argument in one of the newspapers between the advocates of correct grammar and those who think the schools should relax in their teaching of English.

The grammarians would have the better of the argument, in my opinion, if they did not point to the example of great writers. For great writers, as a class, are notoriously poor in grammar.

Actually, what both sides in the controversy fail to see is that rules of any kind are made for beginners, not for experts. Grammar is useful, not for people who know how to express themselves, but precisely for those who don't.

Recently, I was re-reading Chesterton's "Life of St. Francis", and noted a number of grammatical errors I would never make. Yet the sad fact remains that I am a literary microbe compared with Chesterton's titantic dimensions as a writer.

Chesterton needed a grammar book no more than Da Vinci needed a numbered paint set. Men of overwhelming talent make their own rules, guided by some inner ear, by some pulse of the heart that beats truer than all the formal textbooks.

BEST SUBSTITUTE

It is we lesser folk who stand in desperate need of the rules. Queen Marie of Romania once remarked, "Etiquette is for people without breeding, just as fashion is for people without taste."

What she meant of course, is that any set of rules is at best a substitute for national talent. Etiquette books, fashion books, grammar books—these provide the duffers with reliable supports, and assure them that their natural defects can be partly compensated by artificial means. They are, in a sense, the inflated life-jackets of the social swim.

Young people in school should be told that good grammar is not an end in itself, is not even a means to successful writing or to a higher cultural level. It is, simply and wholly, an agreed-upon set of rules for making human communication easier and more graceful. Its purpose is to see that everybody is playing the same game, with the same equipment.

NOTES BY THE WAY

Many schools in the Soviet Union have been ordered not to have history examinations this year. It was reported by Leningrad Radio, which gave no reason, but the reason may be deduced. The pupils presumably have not had time to catch up with the new version of Russian history that is being rewritten since the downgrading of Stalin.—Sydney Post-Record

The Argentines are still suffering the bitter heritage left them by Juan Peron. During his years in office, Peron so corrupted the administration of his great country, so debased it in the eyes of the world and of its own people, that the return to stability is long and hard. The return to an upward march of progress, which his people should now be enjoying, is even more distant.—Montreal Gazette

With summer just around the corner, bicycles have been taken out of basements, dusted off and oiled ready for the long, carefree days that lie ahead. But although cycling is one of the pleasantest and healthiest of pastimes it is becoming, particularly in the city, dangerous for those who have not taken the trouble to learn the rules of the road, or having learnt them, ignore them.—Hamilton Spectator

The Commons Committee on Privileges and Elections is to be called together to inquire into charges that Mr. Carl O. Nickle, member for Calgary South, has a monetary interest in the sale of gas. Mr Nickle's right to vote on the pipeline issue is involved. However the inquiry turns out, it will not affect the overall vote in the Commons. But an important principle is involved, ad the scrutiny should be made.—Ottawa Citizen

If a publisher wants to go bankrupt the quickest way to do it is to publish a lot of poetry. Whether the poetry is good or bad doesn't matter. It won't sell. The reason why people buy Burns or Shakespeare or, for that matter, the Bible has not very much to do with poetry. They are simply things that no decent household ought, it is felt, to be without, like the silver and the best china, or perhaps one ought to say the television set. We won't say that nobody reads them—some people are literal-minded—but certainly very few.—Edinburgh Scotsman

It's a sad fact that a lot of people who stand up aggressively for their rights are prone to fall down on their duties.—Chatham Daily news

When it comes to courage, it would be difficult to beat the man in Hunstanton, England, who modeled pajamas at a mannequin parade before an all-woman audience. —St. Thomas Times-Journal

Believe it or not, there are lads growing up on Ontario farms who don't know how to handle horses. They may be skilled with the tractor but given a team and told to do a job in the field they are greenhorns. We encountered such a case on a farm recently. A young hired man was complaining he hadn't been able to harrow in a straight line. He couldn't keep the team going straight. He hadn't had such difficulty when driving the tractor. It transpired he had never harrowed with a team before.—Windsor Star

Corliss Lamont, wealthy proponent of leftist causes, told a Canadian audience of 200 that free speech is being suppressed in the U.S He didn't say where in the U.S One hopes that it was not the fear that he would toss just such a verbal dud as this that caused Canadian immigration authorities to bar his entry from their Country for a day or two. Had they been better informed they would have realized Corliss is one of the most colorless nonentities we have ever exported. That boy couldn't set off the DEW alarm system with his pockets full of hot atoms. It'll be a bleak day when this continent is endangered by the likes of him.—Detroit Free Press

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