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, OCT. 10, 1953

Thanksgiving

The guns are silent in Korea and most of the world can at long last celebrate Thanksgiving without concern for battle casualties or the necessity of inflicting them on others. A peaceful Thanksgiving is indeed a blessing to be thankful for. It is, of course, associated with the ancient festival of harvest home which meant feasting and merrymaking in celebration of a season's work accomplished and stores laid away to tide one over the long winter. Thanksgiving, however, is different in kind from the old harvest festival. In place of rustic merriment there is the conscious thankfullness to God and His divine providence for the blessings of the year.

In this part of the world we were untouched by war even before the recent armistice. The bounty of the soil and of the sea has been great indeed and we accept almost without thinking about it the fact that no great natural calamity has been inflicted on this land.

Thanksgiving should be in more than words. We have an obligation to share our bounty with those less fortunate and to contribute our bit towards bringing peace to all lands and all peoples. Our servicemen have contributed to that end by showing that aggression is not a profitable undertaking and in some measure our governments and people have contributed towards the relief of calamity and towards the raising of living standards in the less economically developed parts of the world.

A Monday Thanksgiving as is customary in Canada is most appropriate, for on Sunday we have the opportunity of taking part in religious services and of getting in the mood to celebrate a National Thanksgiving in a spirit of joy and gratitude.

Almost An Islander

Though not an Islander by birth, Lieutenant General Maurice Pope, Canada's first ambassador to Spain, is very close to being able to lay claim to this distinction. His grandfather, Hon. William H. Pope, was Colonial Secretary of this Province at Confederation and is duly listed among our Confederation Fathers. His grandmother was a granddaughter of the Rev. Theophilis DesBrisay, who came to Prince Edward Island in the year 1775. Their son Joseph, General Pope's father, was born in Charlottetown on August 16, 1854, and after graduating from the Central Academy —forerunner of Prince of Wales College— entered the service of the Bank of Montreal. It was while living in Montreal that Joseph attracted the attention of Sir John A. Macdonald by whom he was induced to enter the Civil Service. He became Sir John's private secretary in 1882, assistant Clerk of the Privy Council in 1889, and Under Secretary of State and Deputy Registrar General in 1896. He filled many other important positions in the public service, but it is as an historian that he is remembered today. He collated and edited the Memoirs of Sir John Macdonald and subsequently, in 1895, published "Confederation Documents" in which are set forth the various movements which had their consummation in the Union of the British Colonies of North America. He was created a K. C. M. G. in 1912, after having previously received the titles of C. M. G., I. S. O. and C. V. O.

On the maternal side Lieutenant General Pope is a grandson of the late Sir Henry Taschereau, for many years Chief Justice of Quebec. His own career, however, has not been overshadowed by his distinguished forebears. He has been a key man in Canadian military affairs for many years. At the close of World War Two he headed a Canadian military mission to Berlin and was Canada's representative at the preliminary reparations conference at Paris. His present post is that of Canadian ambassador to Belgium, which he will relinquish in December for his new diplomatic appointment at Madrid.

It is emphasized that the appointment of an ambassador to Spain does not mean that Canada approves of the Franco regime, which is distinctly totalitarian. Spain, however, has had an ambassador at Ottawa for some months, and the maintenance of friendly relations with this country may prove of vital importance in the overall plans of European defense against Communism. Certainly in the selection of General Pope, Canada's interests, and those of the free world generally, will be ably represented.

Paradoxical Speed

According to an announcement by the British Overseas Airways Corporation, travellers of the future will be able to leave London at 8 o'clock (Standard time) in the evening and arrive in New York precisely at 8 o'clock (Standard time) that same evening. This does not mean, of course, that the Atlantic will be "liquidated" and that the passengers will reach New York in no time at all. It does, however, suggest some odd phenomena, says the Winnipeg Free Press.

If, as the plane takes off from Croydon airport, the setting sun is just touching the horizon, it will remain there, poised upon the lip of the world as if suspended by an invisible thread. Five hours later the pilot will cut the thread and drop the sun neatly into the canyons of Manhattan Island.

To the intrepid pilot and his perhaps equally intrepid passengers the sun will seem to stand still. It would be equally true to say that it will be the plane which hangs motionless in mid-air, like an independent planetoid on which the sun never sets, while the earth spins beneath it. The pilot will have accelerated his plane to a "standstill."

"There is, of course," comments the Free Press, "no reason to think that man will be satisfied with this paradoxical speed. Trans-Atlantic planes will someday outpace the revolving earth. The hurtling passengers will watch the setting sun climb back out of the sea high into the western sky. And they may find it even more difficult than it now is to tell which way the world is going."

EDITORIAL NOTES

Monday, Thanksgiving.

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Tomorrow, 19th Sunday after Trinity, 20th after Pentecost.

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Those engaged in the potato industry are reminded that the new marketing scheme goes into effect on Tuesday morning, Oct. 13, when the Potato Board selling agency will commence operations. An advertisement in today's issue gives the relevant details.

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There is much merit in the proposal that the Summerside Board of Trade devote the funds inherited from the fox educational fund for providing scholarships. There are few better investments we can make than in the ability of our young people.

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Halifax is justly proud of the efficiency with which the Queen Mary was handled when diverted there because of American east coast longshoremen. That port benefited in some measure by handling the traffic but mainly it had a chance to show its capabilities under peacetime conditions.

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The guns are firing today as the season opens on ducks, geese, pheasants, woodcock and Hungarian partridge. There will, of course, be the greenhorns who take chances with guns and liberties with private property but the great majority know what they are doing and have a respect for the rights of others.

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Giuseppi Verdi, Italian composer, was born this date 1813. He was greatly helped by a friend of the family, Barezzi, later his father-in-law. He composed band music, a symphony and operas but his first great success was the opera "Nabucco", produced in 1842. One of the cast was to become his second wife. His music was essentially Italian in character and he deeply resented the accusation of Wagnerian "copyism". He had a varied style and his later work shows a rare spirituality.

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Charlottetown welcomes Maritime members of Alcoholics Anonymous who are gathering for a public meeting tomorrow afternoon. One cannot avoid admiration for this group which believes in self-help by means of helping the other fellow. Alcoholics who really want to give up alcohol are sure of every assistance from those who have faced the same problems and who were helped by others. The community as well as the individuals and their families is the better and richer for the fine work of A. A.

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The comprehensive review of farm conditions in the Province this year, given in today's issue by Mr. W. R. Shaw, Deputy Minister of Agriculture, indicates that so far as crops are concerned we have indeed cause for thanksgiving. The unsatisfactory market conditions for many products indicate, among others things, the need for more emphasis on a steady program of animal production. Of particular interest, Mr. Shaw notes, has been the activity in the dairy industry and the great improvement effected in the manufacturing of dairy products.

With Thankfulness

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.

RURAL ELECTRIFICATION

Sir— We all know that since the days of Ben Franklin and Thomas Edison, electricity has come a long way in the matter of aid to the city dweller, as well as to farms in the most remote areas. I have been a summer resident at Cardigan for many years and as the years get along, I have wondered why those responsible have neglected to electrify the rural areas. I agree we have a few paved roads, on the main highways, that is, but the poor souls in the outskirts still suffer from the lack of enjoying the benefits of electricity and paved roads. Could it be because taxes are not being paid on farm properties?

It is ridiculous to expect that tourists from the United States and other parts of Canada, who spend a lot of money on P.E.I., will put up with lamp lights. That's setting them back to the days of their ancestors. And maybe we're not conscious of it. Recently I read where the government of Quebec is going to electrify the entire Province. Why not P.E.I. do the same?

We are all familiar with what electricity can do toward helping the individual. The hesitancy to expand its use still remains a mystery to me. What if it does involve a cost to expand the lines? This expense would soon be met by those who use it and would lead to a much happier way of living.

I called into the office of the Maritime Electric Company this past Summer to see what the chances were of wiring from Cardigan to Newport. They said I was wasting my time, that they had 70 or 80 applications ahead of me, and they were not anxious to do them as they were rural districts and it would not pay them and be a loss as farms are too far apart. I wonder how the executives of the Company would like to read and eat by lamplight? If, as they claim, "it would cost too much," why not the Provincial or Federal Governments come forward and finance part of the expense? Which ultimately will be paid by the users.

I think that P.E.I. is a wonderful place in which to live, a spot created by God and developed by man, and would benefit appreciably by electrifying the entire Island.

I am sir, etc.,
HAROLD A. MacGREGOR
Milton, Mass. and North Cardigan

(The Provincial Government has recently announced, through the press, its policy of constructing some 500 miles of lines for rural electrification.—Ed. G.)

Old Charlottetown
(And P. E. I.)

STREET LIGHTING

"The City Council has contracted with the Gas Company to light the street lamps for $28 each per year. According to the Mayor's report, the average cost of each lamp was, last year, $34.22, and the year previous $35.48; so that a considerable saving will be effected under the new contract. Mr. Millner's offer was to light the city with gasoline for $21.00. But the Council was not prepared to hazzard an experiment on that fluid; and we are not prepared to say that they were wrong.

"The Gas Company propose to light and extinguish and keep in repair the City lamps—in number 125 or more—supplying said lamps with four foot burners, and performing the service according to the time table observed during the last contract."

—The Examiner, Oct. 30, 1879.

Apparently the new contract involved additional work, for on Nov. 25 The Examiner published the following item by an anonymous versifier:

THE GRAVE DIGGER

"Old man, old man! for whom digg'st thou this grave?"
I asked as I walked along.
For I saw, in the heart of one of our streets,
A dark and busy throng.

'Twas a strange, wild deed, but a wilder wish
Of the poor deceased to lie,
Midst the troubled numbers of living men
Who would pass him idly by.

So I said, "Old man, for whom digg'st thou this grave
In the heart of Charlottetown?"
And the deep toned voice of the digger replied,
"We're a-laying a gas-pipe down!"

The Age Old Story

How excellent is thy lovingkindness, O God! therefore the children of men put their trust under the shadow of thy wings...For with thee is the foundation of life: in thy light shall we see light. O continue thy lovingkindness unto them.. that know thee; and.. thy righteousness.. to the upright.. in heart.

The Poet's Corner

FROM THE PRINCESS

A classic lecture, rich in sentiment,
With scraps of thunderous Epic lilted out
By violet-hooded doctors, elegies
And quoted odes, and jewels five-words-long
That on the stretch'd forefinger of all Time
Sparkle for ever; then we dipt in all
That treats of whatsoever is, the state,
The total chronicles of man, the mind,
The morals, something of the frame, the rock,
The star, the bird, the fish, the shell, the flower,
Electric, hemic laws, and all the rest,
And whatsoever can be taught and known.

—Lord Tennyson.

FAST CARRIER

ROTTERDAM (CP)— the new Prins Willem van Orange, fastest freight and passenger ship of the Dutch merchant fleet, has begun sailings on the Rotterdam-Montreal run. The 7,300-ton vessel will switch to Saint John and Halifax during the winter season.

Our Christmas Gift Club puts TAYLOR'S Finest Gifts well within Your Reach! Join Today!

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AGENTS THROUGHOUT THE PROVINCE

The Passing Scene

By Observer

A RAPPROCHEMENT

In a recent lecture a distinguished French mathematician gave it as his opinion that "the rapprochement between science and religion is now virtually complete." He happened to be speaking to a religious group at the time, a circumstance which may have had something to do with the optimistic character of his statement. Making allowance for that it is still an important pronouncement.

While there are still probably a good many points of friction to be considered there is little doubt that the old antagonisms between science and religion have lost most of their sting. Hardly anyone now believes that "only science can save the world", and yet it is less than seventy years ago that that flat statement was made in a public address by a well known scientist of that time.

• • •

The late Lecomte Du Nouy, who was recognized as one of the leading scientists of this century, said in his "Human Destiny": "We must hope that man will understand that the civilization in which he takes such pride will collapse unless it is made to rest on moral foundations". And again: "Who will dare affirm today that material progress alone enables us to attain the joy of living?"

On the whole it can be said that science and religion are getting along much better and neither is the loser in this new atmosphere of friendliness.

The use of the word "rapprochement" in the statement referred to above would seem to indicate that there was a time when science and religion were united. I have done a little research into this subject and perhaps some of the facts I have gathered from my reading are worth repeating. I hope so.

• • •

Actually, it seems that the earliest scientific studies of which we have any clear record were very closely connected with religious thinking and, in some cases with religious rites and ceremonies. Take, for example, the Babylonian Empire which some have called the "cradle of civilization", although Egypt is generally accorded that title. It flourished for 2000 years or more before the Christian era began.

Like all ancient civilizations its religion was based largely on astrology which was just about as complicated as anything in the history of man. In order to be able to work out their manifold astrological theories it became necessary to create elaborate systems of squares, cubes and the like. So with the semi-geometrical rules of the Egyptians. They come into existence as aids to religious ceremonies.

Geometry, which many schoolboys regard as the most terrifyi branch of mathematics, also h a religious base, at least partil The Greeks were the first to thi it up seriously and there is son evidence that Euclid, who mu have been a veritable Einstein, f all practical purposes was a Sto although his name is not inclu ed among the eminent ones. T Stoics were philosophers rath than theologians, but their philos phy was based on moral considera tions and they laid much stress o purification and spiritual healt Geometry, apparently, was the great scientific aid in their searc for what they were wont to ca "logical purity."

Plato himself took the view tha knowledge of any kind should al ways be subordinate to the spirit ual "conversion" of the mind.

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In the Middle Ages the monks who occupied prominent places in the schools, gave much attention to mathematics. This subject appeared to them to have "infinite" implications. And, of course, the study of the Infinite occupied high place in their curricula, chiefly perhaps because belief in the nonexistence of infinity (as propounded by Aristotle) was at the time held widely in classical circles, especially in Western Europe.

The 17th century wizard in mathematics and physics, Blaise Pascal, was also a noted lecturer in theology. When asked to explain the dual interest he stated that by specializing in the mathematics and physics he became known as a sound logician. That, in turn, assured a good hearing for his theological arguments which, actually, were his chief concern.

• • •

The German philosopher and scientist, Leibnitz, who, in addition to other achievements, is credited with having had a large share in discovery of the differential calculus, maintained that his interest in science was due very considerably to his desire "to render adoration to God." He felt that the best way to do this was to "contribute to scientific progress which reveals the order and richness of creation". He believed, too, that while there are many mysteries in religion, it ought to be possible to find a method of reasoning which would prove them as easily as a theorem in geometry. His chief aim, he said, was to bring about the unity of religious and rational truths.

Professor Langevin, a famous physicist of more modern times, wrote that "the mind's impulse to try to understand divine truths is really the deep activity of which science is born."

It can easily be seen that scientists were not always unfriendly to religion.

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