

THE GUARDIAN

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CIRCULATION "Covers Prince Edward Island like the dew" "The Strongest Memory is Weaker Than the Weakest Ink"

CHARLOTTETOWN, FRIDAY, MARCH 7, 1952

Founder Of Brotherhood Week

It is perhaps not generally known, but Brotherhood Week is not an American importation. The founder is no less a distinguished person than Miss Mary Attlee, sister of the U. K.'s ex-Prime Minister, now leader of the Opposition in the British Parliament.

Shortly after she retired and returned home in 1950 Mary Attlee consulted some friends with a view to forming a new brotherhood organization. She was distressed by the lack of knowledge among the British public concerning the problems of racial discrimination and she resolved to try to make information on the subject more widespread.

Our National Anthems

The Spectator, London, suggests we should inaugurate the new reign by adopting a new National Anthem to replace the deplorable jingle that passes muster as a national anthem. "The words, no doubt, are in a way consecrated to tradition, but that does not stop us from assessing them as candidly as we are," The Spectator said.

On the other hand The Printed Word has this to say: "It is high time for another English version of Calixa Lavallee's and Judge Routhier's O Canada. Dr. R. Stanley Weir's version, which is the one most used among the English, was suitable enough when it was written, in 1908, back in Sir Wilfrid Laurier's times; but the times have changed.

Canada Has Been Lucky

Under the above heading the Ottawa Journal notes that although in Canada until recently we have heard little of the outbreaks of foot and mouth disease, it is apparently epidemic at the present time in Britain, The Netherlands, and Germany.

The Toronto Globe and Mail quotes a district farmer who came to Ontario years ago from The Netherlands. This farmer (he has a herd of 150 Jerseys) says recent letters from his homeland assert there are some 13,000 cases of the disease there, and he suggests that Canada should keep a tighter check on her borders.

"As far as livestock importations are concerned," concludes the Ottawa Journal, "Canada has been most careful. Only a limited number of high-priced breeding stock have been imported from the UK in recent years and these have been quarantined for lengthy periods both in the UK before shipment and again at Levis, near Quebec. But the British story and the fact that police here in Canada are looking for a specific person, would indicate that the authorities believe humans can also be carriers, the germs clinging to their feet, clothes or possessions. The extraordinary

precautions taken in the UK to isolate infected premises, even to placing police guard over them, would indicate this surmise is accepted. If true the wonder is that the disease did not strike somewhere in America long before this."

EDITORIAL NOTES

The storm predicted for Tuesday from the south got no farther than the 49th parallel. No one objects to such embargo.

Our hogs, our potatoes, our foxes, our mink, our disease free area give us a "class one" agricultural reputation. Long may it continue to be so.

A Toronto rag picker who hoarded \$25,000, left \$15,000 of it to a Trust Company manager who befriended him. A friend in need was a friend indeed in his case.

June 5th for the Queen's Birthday will suit here even better than April 21st, the actual date of Her Majesty's birth. Provided, of course, that it is celebrated on the Monday nearest that date.

Crime, fire and disease pay no attention to man-dictated boundary lines and the sooner citizens, and more particularly municipal officials, learn that elementary lesson the happier and safer life will be in our urban areas, says The Financial Post.

Lower living costs seem desirable but if they come about, as the last Index indicates, by reduced food prices there is a very real danger that industry will find itself without markets and the factory worker without a job. Farm prosperity is the keystone of the economic structure.

As Mr. John Diefenbaker has warned, the balkanization of Canada is as great a threat today as is the spread of foot and mouth disease. It should be possible to control and eliminate the outbreak without creating a maze of Provincial barriers which might prove easier to raise than to remove.

Canada has long succeeded in negotiating treaties with other countries to avoid double taxation. It should not be impossible to carry out the suggestion of Mr. William H. Pipe in the Nova Scotia Legislature that provincial and municipal taxes be deductible from Federal taxes.

The swing from Bevan back to Attlee of the British Labour party's caucus indicates a retreat from anything savouring of Communism. With Churchill continuing many of the former Labour Government's social measures there is surprisingly little difference between the two parties.

Not many parents visited the City schools on Parents' Day, but those who did had an excellent opportunity of seeing "the inner workings" of these institutions and asking questions. The pupils, too, must have been pleased to see their fathers and mothers take a practical interest in how their teachers attempt to impart knowledge.

A definite step has been taken to obtain a loudspeaker system for the Commons. Works Minister Fournier announces that he has been authorized by the Government to enter into a contract with a British company and a Halifax company for the installation and operation of a "sound-reinforcement" system. The contract will be with Tannoy Rentals, Ltd., of London and Cossor (Canada) Ltd., of Halifax.

The death has just occurred at Ambler, Pa., at the age of 86 of Rev. Robert D. Towne, who gained international fame by propounding the complicated mathematical problem: "Mary, 24, is twice as old as Ann was when Mary was as old as Ann is now. How old is Ann?" Puzzle addicts burned a lot of midnight oil over Towne's brain twister.

Aristide Briand, French statesman, died this date 1932. Son of a small Breton farmer, he was eleven times premier of France and was one of the three who directed policy immediately before, during and after the First World War. News of his playing golf with Lloyd George in 1922 led to his recall by the president and he resigned as premier. His work as minister of foreign affairs subsequently earned him the Nobel Peace Prize.

The report published in the current issue of the British Medical Journal, says records kept since May, 1949, show that 79 per cent of all arrests in connection with road accidents happen between the hours of 8 p.m. and 2 a.m. An extraordinarily large percentage of these, it adds, occur shortly after public houses close. Mr. Nicolls also reports that a graph covering 600 cases of traffic violators showed many drivers had consumed six pints of strong beer or nearly half a bottle of spirits.

In For A Letdown?



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.

PLEASANT ISLAND MEMORIES

Sir, - I wish to thank you for putting my verses on the late King George in your publication, and I liked the setting you gave them very, very much. It was interesting to note the relationship between Queen Elizabeth II and Prince Philip. I knew they were related but was not familiar with the Victorian line. I believe Princess Alice died from diphtheria. I loved British history but one forgets with the passing of the years. My sister, Mrs. Carol Tait, sent me the clipping last week.

I shall never see my native land again as I am a shut-in, the result of an injury I received in 1946 when on an extended tour of the U.S.A. and Canada. During that time I spent several weeks on the Island visiting my many relatives and friends, and getting acquainted with the younger generation, and re-acquainted with the older. It was my first visit in thirty-one years and I saw many changes, especially in my old home. Some for the better and others not so.

Some of the beauty of the little vale where I first saw the light of day has gone due to a blight to the willow, cherry, and some of the other trees. And bigger and better barns shut out my view of the river, where on summer evenings I watched enthralled at the splendour of the gorgeous sunsets in childhood and early youth. Logs from a saw mill did not enhance the beauty of the ponds. I also saw many changes in Cavendish - even house and the beach at Cawnport was being commercialized.

However, the National Park was beautiful and some cousins and I enjoyed a chicken dinner there at Green Gables. As we were late they were not going to serve us until we learned that I was a cousin of the late L.M. Montgomery and had travelled a long, long way to dine at their little tea room. Despite suffering I had a wonderful trip and have never regretted it. Since then I have kept in touch by letter with many friends and cousins apart from the large immediate Simpson connection.

I have two mental pictures of the Island; my earlier one of my old home in Charlottetown and some other spots I treasure. The hotel "The Charlottetown" is not overshadowed by any in the larger cities I have been privileged to see and live in. Greater beauty than in the "Garden of the Gulf" and that is not prejudice either. For quiet restful beauty Prince Edward Island cannot be surpassed. A niece from the northwest who travelled with me in 1946 said the same and she has seen much of the North American continent.

I am, Sir, etc., GEORGINA S. GORDON, (Mrs. D. J. Gordon), Oakland, California.

F.W.C. STUDENTS' RESIDENCE

Sir, - When education is being considered or discussed there is an urgent problem which should not be overlooked; it is a residence for students at Prince of Wales College.

A few years ago many individuals, Women's Institutes and other groups were demanding that such a residence be provided. The Government could not ignore the "people's" demands so its Members, and Premier Jones in particular, not only agreed that it was necessary but he also advised the members of the Legislature that a suitable site had been purchased and he assured them that if he were not called to the Senate, he would have a residence built in the near future. Notwithstanding the fact that he has not been called to the Senate, and that several years have passed, yet there still is no residence at P. W. C. Now, Sir, by that fact it is not

Notes By The Way

A rural telephone company in Saskatchewan has ruled that any subscriber who talks for more than five minutes on a party line will have the service cut off. Land sakes, Arabella! A body can scarcely express her introductory remarks in that period, let alone get down to the main theme.

President Truman has a new hideaway—a solarium with walls of blue-green glass perched atop the White House with a penthouse view of the Potomac river. Although work on the White House is not scheduled to be finished until sometime in April, the President has visited the solarium frequently. Aside from the flat roof, the octagonal retreat is mostly blue-green glass; a cubicle nestled behind the balustrade that runs around the roof of the White House itself. Bamboo couches, chairs, lamps and coffee tables give the place a tropical atmosphere. A President's family need never be uncomfortably hot during Washington's humid Summer because the solarium is completely air conditioned.—The British United Press.

Old Charlottetown

(And P. E. I.)

TRACADIE BREAKWATER

"An influential meeting of the electors of Lots 34 and 35 was held at Corran Ban Bridge on the construction of a breakwater at Tracadie harbour. Philip Hughes, Esq., was in the chair with Allan Stewart acting as secretary. Messrs. Peter Campbell, John Angus McDonald and Michael Ready made explanations regarding two petitions previously presented to the Dominion Government on the subject, and showed conclusively the great loss to the shipping interests in consequence of the recent serious decrease in the depth of the channel. "Only a few years since vessels of regular or considerable tonnage regularly entered the harbour with perfect safety; and at the time of the American storm no less than 90 American fishing schooners took shelter in this place. Dr. Jenkins and the Hon. D. Ferguson addressed the meeting, strongly supporting the object, and volunteered their assistance in the advocacy of this greatly needed harbour improvement."

The meeting unanimously resolved to put forth renewed efforts to induce the Dominion Government to undertake the work without delay, and a committee, consisting of Messrs. Michael Ready, Peter Campbell and William Ellis was appointed to draft another petition, obtain signatures thereto, and place it in the hands of our representatives. —The Examiner, Jan. 8, 1951.

difficult to know that Premier Jones and other Members of his Government have not, while living in the country, had children boarding in private homes while attending P. W. C., because if they had, they might have had reason to realize that paying a high rate for the children's board in a private home, and the best efforts of the P. W. C. staff was not enough to assure educational progress. They might also realize students need supervision so that studies are not neglected. Supervision which they do not get in most private boarding-houses. Students should also have a warm, quiet, well-lighted room in which to study. Many students boarding in private homes must try to study in cold, 30-watt lighted rooms, while a near-by radio blares soap operas, etc. Many parents properly guide and supervise their children so that they pass entrance at an early age, then at considerable cost and sacrifice they send them to attend P.W.C., and in many cases they receive no supervision in the boarding-houses so the result is failure and dismay to all concerned. It is regrettable that public servants can do so little to fulfill the people's wishes and in this case, re a P. W. C. residence, deprive the students of its urgently needed benefits. Therefore, it is to be hoped that the Government will very soon make use of the "purchased site" by providing a residence for P. W. C. students. I am, Sir, etc., PARENT.

The Poet's Corner

WINTER NIGHTS

Now winter nights enlarge The number of their hours, And clouds their storms discharge Upon the airy towers. Let now the chimneys blaze And cups o'erflow with wine; Let well-tuned words amaze With harmony divine! Now yellow waxen lights Shall wait on honey love, While youthful revels, masques, Sleep's leaden spells remove. This time doth well dispense With lovers' long discourse; Much speech hath some defence, Though beauty no remorse. All do not all things well; Some measures comely tread. Some knotted riddles tell, Some poems smoothly read. The summer hath his joys, The winter his delights; Though love and all his pleasures are but toys, They shorten tedious nights. —Thomas Campion (1567-1619).

The Age-Old Story

And he entered again into the synagogue; and there was a man there which had a withered hand. And they watched him, whether he would heal on the sabbath day; that they might accuse him. And he said unto the man which had the withered hand, Stand forth. And he said unto them, Is it lawful to do good on the sabbath days, or to do evil? to save life, or to kill? But they held their peace. And when he had looked round about on them with anger, being grieved for the hardness of their hearts, he said unto them, Stretch forth thine hand. And he stretched it out; and his hand was restored whole as the other. And the Pharisees went forth, and straightway took counsel with the Herodians against him, how they might destroy him.

The Passing Scene

By Observer IS THE IDEAL STATE A POSSIBILITY?

We in this generation live in the midst of ideological conflict. The supreme menace of our day, Communism, is set on enslaving men's minds and spirits more than on acquiring geographical territory, though that, too, is on its agenda. Because of their world wide scope many people are apt to feel that present day tensions have no real parallel in the recorded history of the human race. The serious student of history cannot be so convinced, however, that in this respect as in many other respects, there is nothing new under the sun. "The clouds which move and gather on the horizon" (a phrase borrowed from Mr. Churchill) have in reality brought fear and anxiety for many long centuries. Ever since it was first discovered that there were forces seemingly bent on destroying freedom of the mind and soul men have dreamed of a perfect order of society. Some have spoken of this ideal as a perfect social community. Others have thought of it as the City of God. Whatever the name, the hope has been essentially the same, that some day the human mind would find the blue-prints for a beautiful dwelling place where peace and harmony might reign, undisturbed by the forces of evil. In secular history—admitting that it is often difficult to distinguish the secular from the religious—no one pursued this quest more diligently or more hopefully than did the Athenian philosopher Plato.

Once again I have browsed through that great man's "Republic." It is an excellent stormy weather relaxation. It has been said of the Bible that every time that one had not noticed before, "The same, though of course in a somewhat different sense, is true of Plato's dialogues, especially, I believe, of his "Republic." In it we see a great soul (some say the greatest before Christ) using all his powers of heart and intellect and vision to plan an ideal State. Since he was a product (though by no means an average one) of the 4th A. D. some of his reasoning may seem impractical in the light of our times. For instance his playful ridiculing of democracy as a form of government. In this connection, however, it must be remembered that the only democracy he knew had been one more form of tyranny, resolving from time to time into lawless and destructive anarchy. If he could have seen ahead to our day, he would, I think, have been better pleased though not, of course, entirely satisfied. For, notwithstanding the great strides in democratic thought and planning, we have a long way to go before we reach the ideal if, indeed, it can ever be reached.

By and large it can be said that the world owes as much to Plato as to any other thinker of the past. Certainly he was responsible for many first principles in political thought and practice as well as in pure science and philosophy. His insistence on the latter as a primary qualification for legislators may be a little hard for us to follow. At the same time, there can be little doubt that our processes of government would be a bit more stable and less confusing if our politicians were better grounded in the basic principles of philosophy and, consequently, less given to demagoguery. The best in the sciences of economics, sociology, business administration, health planning, and even law giving and enforcement, can be traced back to this profound thinker of ancient times. Whenever I hear people denounce governments as being corrupt, self-seeking and negligent, I cannot help recalling a striking passage from the "Republic": "Governments vary as the dispositions of men vary. For we cannot suppose that States are made up of oak and rock and not out of the human natures which are in them. States are as Men are. They grow out of human character."

In the matter of education Plato can be said to have been a pioneer in widening the frontiers of knowledge. Beginning with gymnastics and music (physical and spiritual exercise respectively) his ideal educational pattern goes on to embrace literature, history, philosophy, mathematics. There is a tendency now towards removing from the elementary and secondary schools much of the so-called Classical subjects, on the ground that technical skills are more practical in a machine age. If the sole object of an education were economic well-being there might be some justification for such a view. But if education is to be defined as the development of the whole personality, helping the individual not merely to "make a living" but to live adequately and in harmony with his fellows, then the view is utterly without sense. This process which Plato calls "the turning round of a soul" calling for a day which is little better than night to the true day of being" requires powers of abstract reasoning and judgment which classical and mathematical studies help to create. It will be a pity if the practical is ever allowed to drive the classical from our schools. The permanent loss would heavily outweigh any temporary gain. Those who, like myself, in their school days entertained a passionate hatred for geometry and considered old Euclid as history's most diabolical tormentor of growing boys will be interested and perhaps a little humiliated by Plato's praise of that tricky science. "Geometry will draw the soul towards truth, and create the spirit of philosophy, and raise up that which is now unhappily allowed to fall." Who but Plato or Socrates his former teacher, in whose mouth he puts the words) would have thought it?

Did Plato live to see his dream of an ideal State come true? No, of course not. Nor did Saint Augustine seven hundred years later. So far as anyone has yet been able to see, perfection, either for the individual or for society, is not in the scheme which history is gradually unfolding. Always the best is a little beyond our attainment, though the "shining city" is very real to those whose ideals are powerful enough and good enough to catch the vision.

WELSH EMBLEM

The wild leek, emblem of Wales, is also found growing in various forests from New Brunswick to Manitoba.

PROFESSIONAL CARDS

Professional cards for Bell, Mathieson & Foster; Matheson, Peake & Nicholson; J. S. Taylor; Dr. A. L. MacIsaac; Allison M. Gillis; Dr. John E. Sterns; Byron J. Grant O.D.; H. R. Doane and Company; McDonald, Currie & Co.