THE GUARDIAN

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CIRCULATION
"Covers Prince Edward Island like the dew"

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

CHARLOTTETOWN, THURSDAY, JUNE 4, 1953

Soil Fertility

The soil survey of this Province and the five years of field plot tests which followed provide valuable information to farmers. Thirty different fertilizer treatments were experimented with in three types of Island soil. All resulted in substantially increased yield. While a slightly better response was found to phosphorous on the O'Leary soil and to potash on the Charlottetown and Culloden soils, the difference was not marked. Nitrogen has been found to have the most marked effect, while phosphorous and potash also proved their worth on all types of soil.

These experiments, of course, deal with the major chemical requirements. It would be of interest to have the experiment extended to take in a number of the so-called trace elements, those which need only be present in minute quantities. Australia is in process of creating a "farm a fortnight" in one vast project involving some 750,000 acres by this means. It was discovered that well-watered but strangely barren country in south-eastern South Australia can be made richly productive by supplying minute quantities of zinc, copper and manganese sulphates and molybden, applied to the soil with superphosphate, singly, or in mixtures, according to the particular types of soil.

Also of interest is the connection between the presence of "trace" elements and the condition of livestock. Sheep, for instance, wasted away with "coast disease", their wool lost its crimp and became wiry and even whole flocks were lost. It was finally discovered that lack of cobalt caused the trouble both to pastures and to livestock. As little as one 300,000 of an ounce made all the difference between a "coasty" animal and a healthy one.

Importance Of Thule

Thule, the United States air base in northern Greenland, has been mentioned several times of late since the official wrappings were taken off the military outpost late last year. It is proving invaluable to the advancement of civil aviation as well as assurance for the United States and Western allies as an important base in the cold war. Latest news is to the effect that a Scandinavian Airlines plane from Oslo, flying to Korea, took the Polar-Northwest Passage route via Thule, Anchorage (Alaska) and Shemya in the Aleutians.

Compared with the conventional route from Oslo to Korea, which would go via Geneva, Rome, Karachi, Rangoon and Bangkok and would take a total time of some forty-six hours, the Polar route over the Northwest Passage saved the Norwegian plane approximately twenty hours. The flight from Oslo to Thule, a distance of 1821 nautical miles, took nine hours. The hop to Anchorage, a distance of 1778 miles, took eight hours; from Anchorage to Shemya, 1296 miles, another seven hours flying time was consumed and the last lap took nine hours, making a total of thirty-three flying hours. The flight was under the direction of the Norwegian Defence Department and the aircraft flew forty members of Norwegian relief personnel to the Norwegian Hospital in Korea. A DC-6B aircraft was used for the epochal flight.

Thule's importance looms up even greater with each event to which it is linked. Last November a west to east flight was made from California, Edmonton and Thule to Copenhagen. In its position less than 1,000 miles from the barren North Pole, Thule is proving to be more than just the name of an isolated United States air base brought along by the unsettled international conditions since the termination of World War II. During the short season in all probability (provided Denmark agrees, because she holds jurisdiction over Greenland), more commercial flights will be scheduled over the top of the world.

"The only aspect of the Thule set-up not yet completed to the satisfaction of the military authorities here," says a Newfoundland exchange, "is the matter of communications. It takes a long time to get a message to or from Thule. Fully aware of the United States skill and determination in overcoming the almost impossible, we can look forward soon to being able to get a better communication service with the Greenland base. Communications in this part of the world are hard to establish and very difficult to maintain. Even our link with Goose Bay is not yet perfect. We take so much for granted in this era of mechanization that when we run up against a problem like the Thule communications we are amazed at any obstacle being insurmountable."

For Safer Driving

British Columbia is the latest Government to adopt the so-called point system for dealing with highway traffic law infractions, says the Toronto Globe and Mail.

This system was first worked out in detail by the State of Connecticut, which discovered that about 80 per cent of the infractions were due to only about 20 per cent of the drivers. To identify the 20 per cent, the point system was devised. This requires that a file be started on each motorist who receives a police warning. This counts as one point against him. Going through a stop sign counts two points, speeding three, drunken driving or being responsible for a highway fatality, ten points. "At various stages," says the Toronto paper, "a letter is written to the offender; he is called in for a conference with the police, and after six points have been accumulated, there is a court hearing, and the driver may lose his license. By this system, potential offenders are discovered early in their progress, and justice is served by the impartiality of the record."

Another significant move in the campaign for highway safety has been made by the National Safety Council of the United States in sponsoring a national traffic safety contest among cities, large and small, in that country. Last year 799 cities with more than 5,000 population won places on the honor roll of the contest for going through the entire year without a single fatal traffic accident. It was an increase of 52 accident-free cities over the previous year.

Evaston, Illinois, was the largest no-death city, with a population of 73,600, while Belmont, Mass., with a population of 27,400 won top honors for cities above 10,000 for having completed six consecutive years without a fatal traffic accident. But the city which has a rightful claim to a perfect record award, is the little city of Hobart, Okla., with a population of 5,400. According to the National Safety Council, Hobart has never had a traffic death since the city was incorporated in 1901.

In the absence of similar records of safety in Canada it is not known if any city in this country can match Hobart, but if a national traffic safety contest can produce such splendid results in the United States, the plan should be tried out here.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Evidently prisoners in the Summerside jail believed that they were entitled to a second chance. The three who escaped a second time after using force on the assistant jailer seem intent on forcing society to take the most severe measures.

* * *

The British pharmaceutical industry has decided to adopt the metric system for weights and measures, instead of grains and drachms. There does not seem to be a foundation in fact for the story that Scotsmen for whom four drachms or a half-ounce of whisky was prescribed were in the habit of indulging in four drams to the detriment of their sobriety.

* * *

At this time when an appeal is being made to the people of this Province to replenish the Red Cross Blood Bank it is well to heed the reminder of Capt. Ted Griset, commanding officer of the Far East command blood bank that although all hospitals in Korea have some whole blood on hand, they are "running pretty short". Contributing to the blood bank here indirectly helps to keep up the supply even so far away as the fighting front.

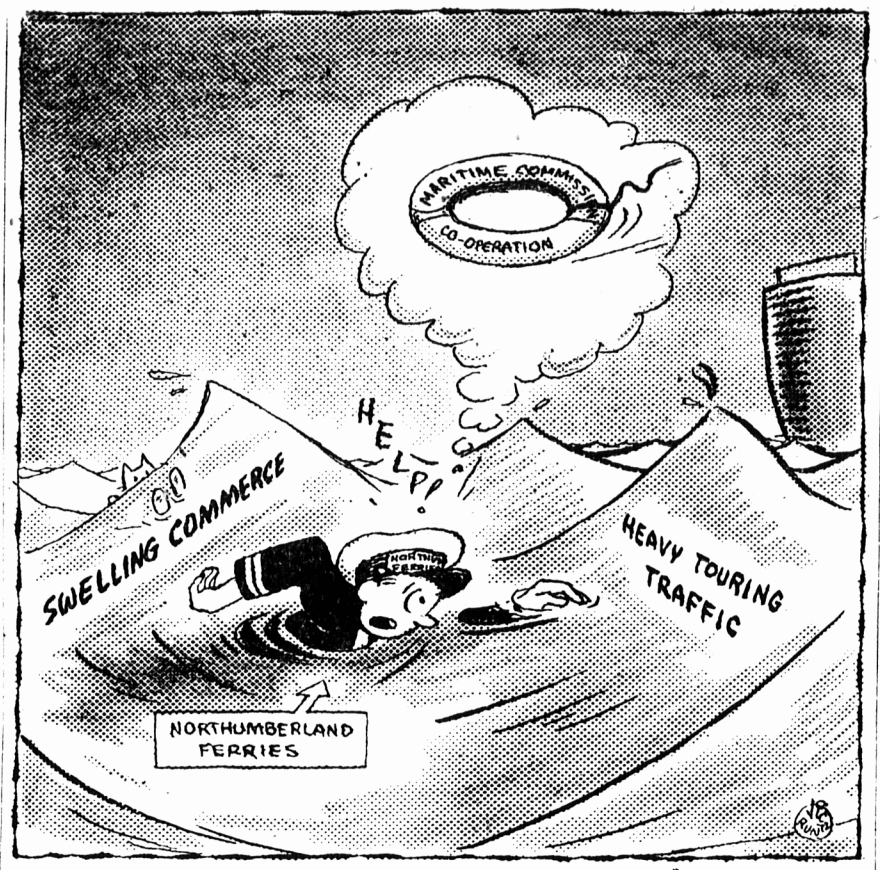
* * *

Garnet Joseph Wolseley, Viscount Wolseley, British soldier, was born this date 1833. He entered the Army in 1852, served in the Burmese War of 1853, in the Crimea, was present at the relief of Lucknow and other engagements of the Indian Mutiny. He commanded the Canadian Red River expedition of 1870 to put down the first of two rebellions by half-breeds led by Riel. Later he fought in the Ashanti War, in Egypt and led the expedition which attempted to relieve General Gordon.

* * *

The Defence Research Board and the Defence Scientific Service have published a booklet telling something of their vital work for Canada's defence. As indicated in the foreword, "the responsible agency recognizes that security can be used as a cloak for inefficiency as well as a means of denying information to potential enemies. It recognizes also its obligation to avoid misuse of the public trust by keeping the people of Canada fully informed of those aspects of its work not requiring secrecy." The motive is admirable and the report is one of which Canadians may well be proud, as are the research scientists engaged in the work.

Needed In A Hurry



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.

"BARLEY FOR JAPAN"

Sir,—I read that lead editorial concerning "Barley For Japan" with keen interest. It is certainly smart news to learn that, whereas "in the period 1929-1939 Japan did not buy a single bushel of barley from Canada", in the last crop year, 1951-52, "she took over 15,000,000 bushels, and was our second-best customer for the grain"; also that, "In the first seven months of the present crop year, Japan imported nearly 19,000,000 bushels".

When one remembers that Japan's import quota under the International Wheat Agreement also calls for just 37,000,000 bushels of the major breadgrain, obviously, our prairie farmers will be interesting themselves in the economic and social and political well-being of this great new customer, metaphorically speaking, on their western doorstep?

The references in the above editorial to the successful industrialization of barley (the Japanese word for it is "Seibaku") are most significant, and likely to play an important role not alone in the global war on hunger but—quite as important, from the primary producer's viewpoint—also, in the direction of 'atomising' the price-destroying surplus and, consequently, tending to stabilize barley valuations from season to season?

From this reader's angle, a successful technique for the processing and industrializing of any of the world's small grains—barley, oats, corn, rice, wheat—is to be applauded, as an effective and durable ally in the endless struggle against regional famine and disease, which stem from drought and flood and unfriendly weather.

Personally, I was impressed by a recent assertion by one of the western farm authorities (Hon. J. E. Brownlee) to the effect that he would not be surprised if the Japanese people, within the next quarter-century and certainly within the 20th Century, would be importing as much Canadian wheat as we sold Britain last year. I feel that this is the road to peace and plenty; but I also feel that if the traffic is to endure, we will have to learn to buy as well as sell. Trade is no one-way street.

I am, Sir, etc.,
"BLUENOSE".

The Age Old Story

Ye have sown much, and bring in little; ye eat, but ye have not enough; ye drink, but ye are not filled with drink; ye clothe you, but there is none warm; and he that earneth wages earneth wages to put it into a bag with holes. Thus saith the Lord of hosts; Consider your ways.

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Spelling 'Em Down

(Washington Post)

We extend our homage— not unmixed with envy— to Miss Elizabeth Hess, aged 13, of Phoenix, Ariz., who has emerged as champion among a field of orthographic champions in the great National Spelling Bee.

The word on which redoubtable Miss Elizabeth vanquished her most troublesome competitor, Master Raymond Sokolov, aged 11, of Detroit, was "spermaceti" into which he injudiciously put one "t" too many. It shows how a little etymology will sometimes help you out in the clutch. That was really a whale of a word, you know; and if Master Raymond had only remembered the radical cetus—cetaceous, cetology, and so on— the spelling bee might still be going on.

Apparently Miss Elizabeth either knows the root or had been reading Moby Dick, for "spermaceti" isn't the sort of one you see or hear very often nowadays, although, a hundred years ago in vicinity of New Bedford, Mass., it may have been just about as common-place as "chlorophyll" is now. And without the help of etymology it is hard to see how both Elizabeth and Raymond could have wrestled successfully, as they did with "sesquipedaliac." (Our guess without looking at a dictionary is that it has to do with something having 50 more feet than a centipede.) But as for some of the other words fed to the contestants, "concinnity" and "marcescent," for example, we can only say, like Artemas Ward, that we "skursely no what those air."

The Poet's Corner

SPRING WARNING

When the green snake leaves upon the rock
His last year's skin like a bubble;
When the bright eyed crow with rusty cry
Surveys the cornfield stubble

And waits the early morning plowing;
When the barn-cat, striped and proud,
Brings her kittens out to the midday sun
With a rumble fierce and loud.

When the meadow brook goes wild with thaw
And shrill delirious frogs;
When willows fly thin yellow blooms
And cowslips ride the bogs;

When overnight the lilac leaves
Burst small,—it's time to tether
Our heart to a butternut tree for fear
It'll blow off in such weather.

—Frances Frost.

KINGSTON, England, (CP)—Archaeologists have formed a "deserted village medieval research" group to investigate and catalogue remains of ancient British and Roman villages in England. In Yorkshire alone about 1,000 such villages are known to exist.

Old Charlottetown

(And P. E. I.)

NARROW ESCAPE

"While Donald Macdonald, jr., of Hay River, Lot 47, was setting a fox trap at a bait placed for that purpose, on the evening of the 7th inst., one of his neighbors came along with his gun, to watch for a fox he had some time previously seen there; and mistaking the object he saw at the bait (the night being somewhat dark) for reynard, he deliberately fired, lodging the contents of his gun in Mr. Macdonald's back and thighs, at a distance of fifteen yards. Fortunately, however, the shot did not penetrate far enough to render his case dangerous."

—Colonial Herald, Dec. 24, 1842.

LONDON, (CP)—Domestic accidents outnumber traffic fatalities, a current home office report shows. In the period 1940-49 there were 48,000 road deaths. In the same period, some 60,000 persons died in their homes from falls, burns, scalds, suffocation and gas poisoning.

Seeing Is Believing Bargain

Truck ready for road, 1950 two-ton Dodge, equipped with hydraulic box and hoist, 12-ply tires rear, 10-ply front. Reconditioned motor with less than 200 miles.

E. MacDOUGALL,
Vernon, P. E. I.

NOTICE

THE HIGHWAY TRAFFIC ACT

To overcome the back-log of applications for Motor Vehicle Operator's Examinations, the R. C. M. P. have been instructed to assist the Examiner during the month of June. Persons desiring such an Examination during June may apply to any Detachment of the R. C. M. P. in the Province.

P. S. FIELDING,
Deputy Provincial Secretary.

Notes By The Way

Nominated in Winnipeg for the Manitoba Legislature is a gent who will run as candidate of the Prosperity for Posterity party. It is safe to predict a chilly response from the electorate; what did posterity ever do for us?—(Toronto Telegram).

Mr. James Sinclair, federal minister of fisheries, has repeated the estimate that while Canada's per capita consumption of food is 1,500 pounds annually, only 14 pounds of the total amount is represented by fish. The fishing industry is faced with market resistance, but if Canadians would eat one pound more fish per capita each year, the problem would be solved.—(Halifax Chronicle-Herald).

Perhaps for the first time, a government sat down recently to discuss matters of policy with one of the women who clean the floors of its offices. It happened when a delegation from the Newfoundland Federation of Labor met the Cabinet in f[illegible] session to discuss government policy towards labor. One of the Federation delegates was a lady who works regularly as a charlady in the Colonial Building. A striking and significant index of the time—at least so the Cabinet thought.—(St. John's Telegram).

At the present time optimists anticipate an era of prosperity that nothing can prevent, in the face of years of abundance. The Finance Minister is right to warn people against this excessive confidence. Credit inconveniences are about equal for merchants and customers. The latter have to pay a premium for this sort of loan. It is seldom that the lender is completely repaid the whole of his credit. And the dilatory debtor has costs to pay before finishing the settlement of his debts. In Quebec it appears that the credit vogue has got the big stores into obstacle races. By following Mr. Abbott's wise advice they will do a safer business by giving service to the honest folk whose margin of credit is equal to their ability to pay. They will be wise people who will have the courage to practise this form of social economy.—L'Evenement Journal, Quebec.

Again Colonel G. Hedley Basher, deputy minister of the Ontario department of reform institutions, advocates the payment of daily wages to long-term prisoners. He told a meeting in Hamilton of the Family Service Bureau the advantages of such a plan. The money would be turned over to the families of the inmates. The reform has been tried in several countries with success. It is economically sound, psychologically valuable. Men in prison should be allowed, indeed compelled, through work, to make some contribution to their dependents. — (London Free Press).

A British clergyman bemoaned the fact that the sob-singer, Johnny Ray, earned more by singing for two weeks in British theatres than a British farmer could earn in 40 years. It just goes to prove that cultivation doesn't pay.—Fort William Times-Journal.

Ottawa's traffic authorities appear to think that the automatic cure for any problem is another set of traffic lights. That sort of thing can be carried too far—many must wonder whether for this city the limit has not been reached—and indeed passed.—(Ottawa Journal).

In youth, time seems unfair. It drags its feet in heavy boots to the holidays, then changes to running shoes and swiftly sprints away. Yet every moment, swift or slow, is precious and unique and should not be wasted. Kipling realized this when he wrote that the unforgiving minute should be filled with 60 seconds' worth of distance run. This does not mean that one should be working all the time to built for the future. Rather, that each minute should be savored and enjoyed, not allowed to slip by heedlessly. Perhaps one should wish, when young, that time would always wear its heavy boots.—(Hamilton Spectator).

Few will disagree with the edict of the clerk of a London local authority who advises those responsible for the drafting of official documents to "use language that is simple and clear...avoiding official verbiage and substituting short, conversational words." A paragraph from a circular issued by the same authority and reprinted in a professional journal illustrates, however, the gulf that often separates precept and practice: "Cessation of payment by a non-necessitous child in a normal school, who is not in one of the priority classes, should result in the discontinuance of meals."—(Manchester Guardian).

Little boys habitually are overlooked at great events, so it is good news that Prince Charles will be permitted to attend at least part of the Coronation ceremonies in London. It was a wise decision. Prince Charles, being only four and a half years old, won't take up much room, and being well brought up youngster, he won't make any noise. Probably both these conditions were made plain to him in advance, as to any youngster being taken to a great event. After all, one day Prince Charles himself will figure in a similar ceremony, one in which he will not be an onlooker but the centre of all eyes. Even at four and a half, he may be able to receive some impression of royal dignity which will remain with him through his life. —New York Herald Tribune.

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