

THE GUARDIAN

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Editor and Manager, Ian A. Burnett, Associate Editor, Frank Walker.

CIRCULATION

"Covers Prince Edward Island like the dew"

"The strongest memory is weaker than the weakest ink"

CHARLOTTETOWN, SATURDAY, MARCH 13, 1954

Overfishing

Sober attention should be paid to the warning of Mr. George E. Saville on the danger of depleting the lobster supply by poaching.

The same thing could happen as happened to the great California sardine fishery. The sardine industry in that State was warned repeatedly over a fifteen-year period against the danger of over-fishing.

The lobster is even more vulnerable to over-fishing than the sardine because of the relatively small movement of the crustaceans. An area can be quickly cleared of lobsters and when that happens over a fairly wide area it is going to be a long time before the supply is replenished.

A Printer's Mistake

Even itinerant evangelists have their troubles. In proof of this assertion we cite the case of Billy Graham, famous American lay preacher, who is now delivering the gospel, as he sees it, to Londoners and anybody else who comes within reach of his powerful voice.

It will be recalled that Mr. Graham went to England at the request of a number of religious leaders in that country who hoped that he might help in the current campaign to strengthen the influence of religion which, according to these same leaders, is badly in need of repair.

Not Hitlerism

In the anxiety aroused all over the free world by the failure of President Eisenhower to curb the excesses of Senator Joseph McCarthy, notes the Hamilton Spectator, the words "Hitler" and "Hitlerism" are beginning to be heard with disquieting frequency.

The great difference between Hitlerism and McCarthyism, says our Hamilton contemporary, is that the former set up imaginary bogeys to excuse its excesses but the latter fights—even if for cynical and selfish ends and even if with excesses of its own—a bogey which is real.

Another profound difference stems from the fact that every "ism" has two components—the leader and the follower. The leaders of Hitlerism and McCarthyism may be similar; the followers, in mass, are most certainly not.

star are in every other way ordinary people) is not a militarist who can be easily stirred, as the Germans were, into a mystical blood lust. It is not yet nine years since that German blood lust spent itself. It would be perilous, this early, to reduce it in memory to no more than an "anti-Communist movement."

Nor does the American have the German's herd instinct; in fact, his whole history has fortified his belief in his own individualism. Suggest to him that his children must join the McCarthy Youth, his wife must spy on the women of her bridge club and he must put on a uniform and go and shoot (or be shot by) the wicked Canadians who are encircling his country by denying it living-space, and the result will be spectacularly violent—the suggester will be picking himself out of the gutter.

The more free a man is, the slower he is to react to such imprisoning blights as McCarthyism. In his freedom he is little concerned with such things until they touch him personally. But when they do, he acts. When the blight of gangsterism began to touch enough individual Americans there was a sudden and violent reaction; something which had been accepted for years as regrettable but ineradicable was suddenly eradicated.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Tomorrow, second Sunday in Lent.

It now appears that the custom of asking a blessing on one who sneezes is more to the point than offering medication. At least a recent British study indicates that sneezes, running noses and so forth can be connected with emotional stress and worry.

There is nothing sensational about the C. N. R. Safety Car, as there is about a major train wreck, but the car which will be on demonstration in Charlottetown and Borden may well be the means of saving life and limbs without earning the rewards associated with more dramatic actions.

It seems that Parliament will adopt provisions for giving time to convicted persons in which to raise the money to pay their fine. Such a measure will go far towards putting the man with money in his pocket and the one without it on even terms before the law.

The principle of the old time veranda has received scientific approval. A professor of Cornell's College of Agriculture has devised a "solatron" to simulate the position of the sun for any latitude, season and time of day. An architect can tell from a model how the direct rays of the summer sun can be cut off and the slanting rays of the winter permitted to enter.

A long-standing grievance has been remedied by the increase in salaries for senior teachers over and above the general increase. It may also be a measure of economy. The heavy turn-over in the teaching profession is in no small measure due to the relatively small prospects of advancement after reasonably satisfactory starting rates. The cost of replacing teachers who leave the profession probably far exceeds that of the new increase.

Representatives from Canada will visit Edinburgh this summer to attend the first International Congress of the World Federation of Occupational Therapists from August 16-20, reports "This Week in Britain". Formed in 1951, the Federation's aim is to promote international co-operation among occupational therapy associations and to advance the practice and standards of occupational therapy between them and other allied professional groups.

Proposals for a Cabinet system of government for Singapore, with the majority of portfolios held by elected members, were made in the report of the Rendel Commission which has been inquiring into the new constitution for the colony. Under the new constitution, most matters at present handled by the Colonial Secretary's Office would be dealt with directly by elected cabinet ministers.

Sir Hugh Seymour Walpole, New Zealand novelist, was born this date 1884. He wrote with much distinction on the English cathedral city environment, notably in "The Cathedral." His first novel, "The Wooden Horse", appeared in 1909, and Walpole established himself in Chelsea as a writer. His experience in Russia during the First World War resulted in "The Duchess of Wrexhe", a penetrating story of an autocratic personality, symbolic of a social system in decay. Much of his later work was colourful historical fiction.

Not So Far Away After All



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.

SCHOOL TEXTBOOKS

Sir,—As this is Education Week and all about us the ideas and thoughts of the people are on the go in "education", I think it is a good time to bring up a few of the mistakes in our educational setup. Mind you I have no fault to find with the teachers and pupils. Our children are better educated today than they ever were but as the mother of three children attending school and two to follow, it is the books in which I have fault. Why are the books changed so often? Our children have three geographies, and on buying Science books late in the fall, due to late printing, I find that these books are again being changed this fall.

Where is our Minister of Education? Perhaps if he were to buy books as the mothers do each fall and pay for them out of a limited allowance, then find next fall that he has to buy new ones where the hand-me-downs would do, he would do something about it. Does the change so quickly, or geography differ each year? Also why is it across the Strait that books are free—in fact right on our own Island the children of service personnel get theirs free. Perhaps a few of these things could be bought up now when there is talk of an election. Perhaps, too, we could have a man in the Legislature who would understand these things, because after all the women spend 90 per cent of the money earned and therefore know where it is going. This subject has never been brought up before to my knowledge but I think it is time the women got up in arms about it. I know we get the family allowance but does the other Provinces get it? Therefore I say women get on your high horse and demand of your representative in the Legislature a reason for this changing of the books and the idea of free books for the Island.

I am, Sir, etc. AN INTERESTED MOTHER Summerside.

MIDDLE-ROAD EDUCATION

Sir,—In your issue of March 8th, the writer of the "Let's Talk It Over" column honors me with a prompt reply to a letter of mine entitled, "Which Way Education", which appears in your issue of March 6th. He signs himself "d" and asks me to tell him in which issue of his column he used the following expressions that I attributed to him: (1) That our Island system has been so long "absolutely static". (2) That the Island people "considered the word 'new' to be blasphemous".

I wish to be fair with "d" and although I feel that a little exaggeration of his words would only be a case of fighting an opponent with his own choice of weapons, I nevertheless admit that "absolutely static" is a little too strong in the case of question No. 1. As for question No. 2, I might remind "d" that if he insists on strict literal quotation from his column, on my part, he should quote my statements strictly literal in return—although by the way, this strictness might spoil half the "fun". Let me now quote, in part, the exact words "d" did say, and from which I "jumped" to a misinterpretation of what he meant to say. "When we on the Island begin to err on the side of radical procedure in any phase of human endeavor, that will be something to remember. The emphasis is being placed on the evils of educational progress pseudo or otherwise can quite easily give our teachers and educators a false security in the status quo. We should mix this trade against progressivism with some suggestions as to how our present educational picture can be brightened by introducing 'new' (a blas-

Notes By The Way

"There is a law that man should love his neighbor as himself—in a few hundred years it should be as natural to mankind as breathing or the upright gait; but if he does not learn it he must perish."—Alfred Adler.

A current "History of Barnard College" notes that the now 65-year-old women's affiliate of Columbia University in New York began with "only an idea." Who knows of anything better on which to start an institution of learning. — Christian Science Monitor.

What needs saying about higher education? Some pertinent things were said at the ninth National Conference on Higher Education in Chicago, of concern and interest in Canada as well as in the United States. The tendency of many college programmes to "reflect an atomic age which puts a new premium on the technician," while generally ignoring cultural and spiritual values, was deplored. A Pulitzer prize-winning poet, Dr. Peter Viereck, associate professor of history at Mount Holyoke College, urged that more emphasis be placed on giving students an understanding and appreciation of "the spiritual and aesthetic." He said the humanities receive more lip service than practice. — Sydney Post-Record.

Mr. H. F. Fishleigh, Prog.-Cons. M.P.P., Toronto Woodbine, is reported to have enlightened members of the Legislature by telling them that pigs with straight tails are sick pigs. But that would not be news to members from farm areas. Mr. Fishleigh says pigs become indomitable and their curly tails straighten out when they have black teeth. That could be true, but the Toronto member gets a bit wide of the mark when he depicts two or three men sitting on a pig while its phemous word to the old guard) methods born of trial and error down through the years. Without believing that the past has everything we need, let us gather up what we consider is best in the past. Let us not forget that progress means change: Water that does not run is stagnant. Stagnant—that's the word, not "absolutely static."

Before closing this letter I wish to say that I do not intend to carry on this editorial debate any longer with "d" replying in his own column, as such procedure may prove confusing to the Forum column. Let me, however, assure "d" that I warmly appreciate his generous invitation to smoke together the pipe of peace in some suitable location before many moons come and go. If his middle-road companion, Mr. Chandler, will be there too—all the better! I am, Sir, etc. LOOKING ON.

mouth is opened and the black teeth pulled out. If this were true, it would be a sad little pig indeed. Piglets do have "black teeth." These are their first teeth. They are extremely sharp and interfere with a pig's feeding. And they are pulled out, but while the pigs are still small. It doesn't take any two or three men sitting on the little animal. The teeth can be yanked easily by a pair of small pliers. But what he says about the curly tails is right. The healthy, happy pig has a curly tail.—Windsor Daily Star.

Old Charlottetown

(And P. E. I.)

EARLIEST SCHOOLS

"In 1767, when lands were being granted in the Province, for every 100 acres provided for a church and glebe, 30 acres in each township were provided for a schoolmaster. But practically nothing in respect to education was done until 1780 when Alexander Richardson opened the earliest school at St. John's Coffee House, on the corner of Queen and Dorchester Streets, Charlottetown. The first school by a woman teacher was that of Mrs. Bulpit, the wife of Charlottetown's first Methodist minister. In the early 1820's the first kindergarten was begun by Mr. and Mrs. Hubbard of Charlottetown. Though these private schools helped to educate the children who lived in the town, the outlying districts were served by travelling teachers whose sole qualification was the possession of a physical disability, which prevented them from playing more profitable trades.

"The first move toward a public school system was made in 1804 when land in Charlottetown was granted by Lieutenant Governor Fanning to build an academy to be named Kent College. This plot of ground is the present College Square. But not until 1825 did the Legislature undertake to assist in the education of children throughout the Province. In that year the first Education Act was passed, authorizing the payment of one-sixth of the teacher's salary and \$50 to each of the Counties as a salary for a grammar master."

—From "The Educational Horizon, Guardian, Oct. 11, 1947."

The Age Old Story

Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created.

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The Passing Scene

By Observer DEMOCRACY AND THE TOWN MEETING

When we speak of democracy we have in mind representative government. Democracy, properly so-called, is government by the people directly, not through representatives. Obviously this would not be possible on a national scale. True, even on a provincial scale, the only place where it could possibly work would be a small town or a country district where a building or arena could be found big enough to accommodate the entire population at one time.

New England, a term applied to the States of Massachusetts, Connecticut, Rhode Island, New Hampshire, Vermont, and Maine, (but not New York or New Jersey, as is sometimes thought) is now the only geographical region in the world where a purely democratic form of government is attempted; this is done under that curious institution known as the Town Meeting. Even in some of these States it is not where it used to be. Most of the bigger communities cleave to the tradition in a symbolical sense only, the actual civic affairs being conducted by municipal councils, town managers, and other officials. This has given rise to a feeling in New Hampshire, Vermont, and Maine that there is no real democracy in fact, each of these three is inclined to be a bit dubious about the other two.

Eastern Maine is the real home of the Town Meeting these days. Many of the small towns and all the country districts are governed that way; the citizens get a great deal of fun out of the process, and much experience in public speaking, elocution, political intrigue, and all round parochial jingoism. This is the time of year for the meetings to convene, although some districts get them over a bit earlier, perhaps late in February.

Everything necessary for the good governing of the town or district for the next twelve months is enacted at these meetings. (Some skeptical outsiders say that a lot of unnecessary things are enacted as well, but they know better than to say it in Maine, New Hampshire or Vermont.) The fiscal budget is adopted, the rate of taxation fixed, Selectmen selected, and school problems ironed out. Then, after the agenda has been disposed of, anyone at all is permitted to bring up any matter that he feels is important enough to be discussed. This might include anything from the iniquity of the State Government to the condition of the current maple run or the coming season's prospects for sardines.

There is no time limit for speeches except when provided for by majority vote at any particular meeting. This seldom happens; it would be too much like limiting a persons' democratic rights. Meetings are sometimes brought to adjournment in one day, though usually they take two or three, and they have been known to last a week. A one day session is not considered quite right and proper; it seems to indicate unreasoning haste which is not compatible with the free use of democratic privileges. When a man gets to his feet and says, "Mr. Moderator"—(a title going back to colonial days when Congregational Church affairs and civic affairs meant about the same things) he sums up in himself the attitudes and the temper-

aments and the traditions of three hundred years of search for a political ideal which somehow is always a little out of reach. Democracy, unlike other forms of government, does not promise political or social utopias. It recognizes diversity, the minority right to be heard, and above all, what someone has called the "sanctity of dissent."

These, of course, are inherent in representative democracy as well as in the Town Meeting kind; but in the latter they seem to show up better; mainly, no doubt, because they are articulated instead of being silent values on a ballot paper. No more real, but more apparent and much more audible.

For all that, the Town Meeting "pure democracy" remains more theoretical than actual. I have attended three or four of the meetings, and each time I have come away feeling that there, too, partisan political methods were at work. Notwithstanding the belief, or the pretense, that everything was done right there and then, I could see plainly that much manipulation of political influences had preceded the meeting.

In some instances the ward officers had been pretty well determined beforehand by the old and familiar method of the caucus. Outwardly, one man had as much right to be heard as another; it could be easily seen, however, that some men carried a little more weight than others simply because they could talk a little more persuasively and with a little more persuasion.

I expect the truth is that there is no such thing as a perfect political system. Democracy, either absolute (if that were possible) or representative, which is its popular form, is nearer to perfection than any other system yet devised; and its chief strength, among obvious weaknesses, is found in its avoidance of doctrinaire perfectionism.

What's a' your jargon o' your schools, Your Latin names for horns an' stools; If honest nature made you fools, What salts your granams? Ye'd better ta'en up spades and schools, Or knappin'-hammers. A set o' dull, conceited hashies, Constitute your brains in college classes; They gang in stirks, and come out Plain truth to speak; And sene they think to climb Parnassus By dint o' Greek!

Gie me ae spark o' nature's fire! That's a' the learning I desire; Then, though I drudge thro' dub and mire, At plough or cart, My Muse, though hamely in attire May touch the heart.

—Robert Burns.

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