

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, FRIDAY, MARCH 19, 1954

Newfoundland Fisheries

For three centuries or more in Newfoundland's colonial history the fisheries constituted the mainstay of the island's economy. In fact, with the exception of a few small factories in St. John's and a number of saw mills around the coast, fishing was the only industry of importance right up to the turn of the present century.

This new phase in Newfoundland's economy and the poor prices received for fishery products in the last two or three years have combined to take large numbers of men from the fisheries to other means of employment. Last year the number employed in fishing was the lowest on record.

Newfoundland fishermen always have taken their places among the world's best; their skill in seamanship has been unsurpassed; for many generations their love for the sea, with all its dangers and all its uncertainties, has provided rich material for song and story.

A Damning Indictment

The existence of forced labor in Soviet Russia, as revealed by an Ad Hoc Committee set up jointly some time ago by the United Nations and the International Labor Organization, is to be dealt with at the next session of the Economic and Social Council and the I.L.O. As it stands, the Committee report is itself a damning official indictment, prepared under the chairmanship of Sir Ramanswami Mudalfar of India, one of the founders of the U.N., with whom was associated two outstanding jurists.

Their report, on which it is to be hoped the fullest light will now be shed, finds that conditions of forced labor exist in Russia "of so grave a nature that they seriously threaten fundamental human rights and jeopardize the freedom and status of workers in contravention of the obligations and provisions of the Charter of the United Nations."

Specifically the Ad Hoc Committee finds that Soviet law explicitly provides for four kinds of forced labor, as follows:

- 1. Corrective labor without deprivation of liberty. The person may be sentenced to this kind of corrective labor for one day or one year and the labor may be performed at the normal place of work, being in the form of unpaid overtime.
2. Corrective labor with deprivation of liberty. Here the person does the labor in a camp or prison and sentences range up to 25 years.
3. Exile with corrective labor. Soviet criminal law was changed on January 10, 1930 to provide this category of punishment. Punishment here may be for any term up to life and extremely severe regulations are applied. Food is related to output. Less food goes with declining strength.
4. The Soviet law makes it compulsory

upon every person to work where assigned and at the prescribed rate of pay. All labor is compulsory. There is only one employer—the state—which possesses all the power. No one in Soviet Russia can quite one job and go to another. If he did so he would be guilty of a crime and be punished under one or other of the foregoing heads. Thus, as the Committee points out, there is no real freedom at all.

Two Viewpoints

South Korean General Choi Duk Shin has been making a friendly call on M. Maurice Dejean, the French Commissioner-General in Indo-China. The chief purpose of his visit, according to reports from the Indo-Chinese capital, is to convince the French official that South Korea's offer of troops to aid in the war against the Communist rebels should be accepted.

Here is an illustration of two viewpoints which are by no means confined to a South Korean soldier and a French Government official. Each viewpoint has its supporters as well as its opponents in every part of the Free World. Some competent Far Eastern observers have stated that the main Communist strategy in the Orient is to keep the Western Powers guessing as to what China may or may not do should the United Nations or any constituent member thereof grant material or military aid to any government harassed by Communist rebels.

Thus far this strategy has not been without diplomatic and military advantage to the Communists; whether or not it can be permitted indefinitely to maintain division in Free World councils is a question which sooner or later will have to come to a head.

EDITORIAL NOTES

"T. D. F." in the Ottawa Citizen comes up with an explanation of why the "straight and narrow" path happens to be that way. In his opinion it would be wider if it carried more traffic.

It is decidedly gratifying that Netherlands authorities have a high regard for this Province as a new home for Dutch settlers. The opinion is very definitely reciprocal for Islanders have a high opinion of the Dutch settlers as citizens and neighbours.

When the new Criminal Code is adopted it will no longer be a crime to be broke and out of work. Justice Minister Garson, after various proposals by the Opposition, proposed to delete from the description of vagrancy and reference to a person who "lives without employment."

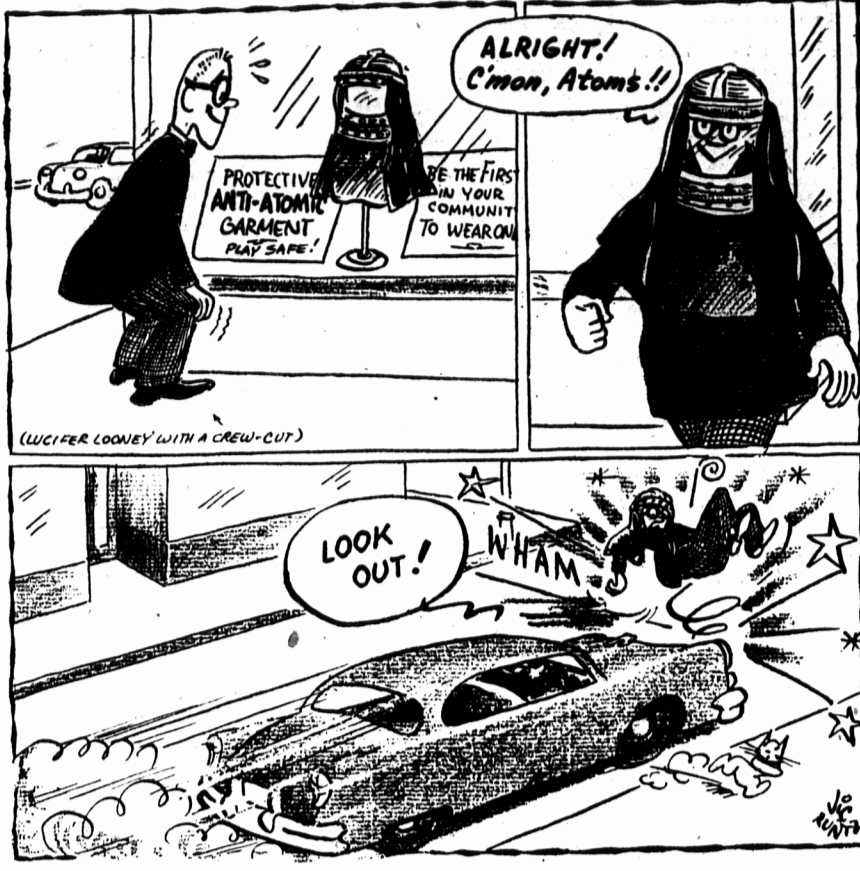
American scientists were surprised at the great force of H-bomb No. 2 and their instruments were unable to measure its full force. In earlier days when there was more sharing of information a similar case of inadequacy of their instruments was remedied by data acquired by the British observers who had been invited to attend.

A Dutch paleontologist asserts that a race of men existed at least 1,000,000 years ago, from before the Pleistocene age of glacial invasions. Recent finds in South Africa had led most European experts to believe that man proper emerged in the mid-glacial stage of the Pleistocene or some 400,000 years ago. The new assessment is based on material including four skulls, one of an infant, from the Sol River in western Java.

British Columbia, for the year ended June 30, 1953, used more fertilizer than did Manitoba and almost as much as either Saskatchewan or Alberta, despite her very small amount of cultivated land. All four western provinces used only slightly more than did the Province of Quebec alone, and only about one-third as much as was used in Ontario. Incidentally, the three Maritime Provinces used more fertilizer than did the four western provinces or the province of Quebec.

Major William Stephen Raikes Hodson, "Hodson of Hodson's Horse", was born this date 1821. He joined the Indian army in 1845, fighting in the first Sikh war. He was dismissed for harsh administration and irregularities. On the outbreak of the Mutiny he carried dispatches and then was permitted to raise his famous force of irregulars and became head of the Intelligence Department. He captured the last of the Moguls but has been seriously censured for shooting the three princes to overawe the mob. He was killed at Lucknow.

If It's Not One Thing, It's Another



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.

MODERN CULTURAL MEDIUMS

Sir—My essential attitude in approaching this subject is that of Hezekiah Butterworth's humble taper:

"One taper lights a thousand. Yet shines as it has shone; And the humblest light may kindle A brighter than its own."

Every man must bow his head in silent admission of many imperfections when he sees himself as others see him. Yet true humility is always accompanied by moral courage. In other words, it sometimes takes moral courage to express one's humble opinion.

I think the policy of The Guardian is commendable in its seeks to maintain a high standard of its readership in accordance with the best traditions of the press. A cultured man is not one wholly subservient to his environment, but one who in many respects rises above it.

MINOR SAXON

The Poet's Corner NEW HOUSE No one has come to live here yet. But the road ends in open ground. And the foundation stones are set. Tomorrow there will be the sound Of saws and hammers pushing back The silence, Lumber, brick and sand Will reach this leafy cul-de-sac, Fall ready to the builder's hand. Who brought a dream to this obscure Abode? Neighbors far away— Who made its shaping doubly sure? No sign of tenantry can say. Perhaps the sunsets burning gold Flashed from a window still not there, And hilltop quietness foretold What busy towns refuse to share. Deeper into the wilderness The dream goes on, the search fulfilled And who shall ever dispossess Those who had faith enough to build! —Bessie Glen Buchanan.

Syria Today

(National Geographic News)

Syria, which has just experienced a sudden change of president, has tasted many changes through its long history. One of the world's newest republics but one of its oldest movements of mankind since earliest recorded time, says the National Geographic Society.

Its ancient capital, Damascus, was ruled by Egyptians and Hittites before it became a part of an independent kingdom about 1,000 years before Christ. Later the city knew a succession of conquerors — Babylonians, Persians, Greeks of Alexander the Great, Mohammedans and Crusaders. Late in World War I it was occupied by British and Arabs.

In 1920 Syria was placed under French mandate. In 1925 Damascus joined with Syria's largest city, Aleppo, to form a state which remained under French control. Only in 1941 did the Syrian Republic win full independence. Subsequently it gained United Nations recognition.

Syria approximates the size of North Dakota but has five times as many inhabitants. The population—3,252,000—is made up mainly of Arabic-speaking Moslems but includes members of various Christian sects. Most are rural dwellers, but the commercial and intellectual life of the nation is concentrated in the larger cities, Aleppo, Damascus and Homs.

Britain's Biggest Oil Dock (Starford Beacon-Herald) The newest and largest oil dock in Britain has been officially opened. Known as the Queen Elizabeth II dock, it is near the old village of Eastham, where the Manchester Ship Canal comes down to the tidal waters in the estuary of the River Mersey.

Old Charlottetown (And P. E. I.) SOURIS ROUND HOUSE "When the Railway was extended to Souris, the contractors were allowed to place the station, freight house and round house on the sand beach between Souris East and Souris West. When the terminus was changed to its present location, the two former buildings were sold at public auction to private parties, who removed them to firmer quarters. The round house, however, was allowed to remain on the beach where it was repaired a few years ago, for military purposes. It has been gradually getting out of repair of late, and Monday morning's gale blew it down. Its remains now lie scattered along the shore. Placing buildings on Souris beach was a gross blunder at the outset, and now that the last of them has tumbled down, no one wants to see its like there again."

WANT GUN TESTS TORONTO, (CP)—Introduction of tests prior to receiving a gun licence was suggested Wednesday to the Ontario legislature's gun and game committee. A brief presented by the Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters held that all hunters should have to pass a test before receiving their first licence. It also suggested that permits for juveniles between the ages of 16 and 18 should be valid only if the young hunters were accompanied by a parent or guardian.

ing 1,700 tons, were made at Barrow, and towed from there 60 miles by sea. They are easily moved at all stages of the tide by electric winches.

Notes By The Way

A six-year-old Holstein cow on a farm near Belmont has given birth to triplets to make five calves born to her in 11 months. A few more like her and a farming financial warrier would be over. — St. Thomas Times-Journal.

In eleven recent London burglaries, dogs on the scene — three albatrosses, three poodles, two terriers, a peke, a bull terrier and a Labrador — failed to give an alarm. At a twelfth robbery, indeed, an alarm was raised by a dachshund. But of course the burglar may have stepped on him. — T. W. Jones in Toronto Star.

Police in Paris, France, have arrested a converted alcoholic who was not content merely with preaching prohibition but also went about dropping pills in drinkers' glasses, making some of the drinkers so ill that they had to be taken to hospital. Police say the man has been charged with "vagabondage and administering substances harmful to the health." Evidently the temperance crusader was not quite temperate enough in his methods. — Branford Expositor.

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Developed after three years of research, an outboard motor installed from the boat so that sounders are deadened. Tests showed that the occupants of a boat using this motor could carry on an ordinary conversation and actually hear the lap of the waves over the sound of the motor even when the motor was operating at full throttle of five and a half horsepower. — Rotarian Magazine.

The Age Old Story So after he had washed their feet, and had taken his garments, and was set down again, he said unto them, Know ye what I have done to you? Ye call me Master and Lord; and ye say well: for so I am. If I then, your Lord and Master, have washed your feet; ye also ought to wash one another's feet. For I have given you an example, that ye should do as I have done to you.

POPULAR WRITER Thornton Wilder, American author has won the Pulitzer Prize three times—with a novel and two plays.

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