

THE GUARDIAN

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CIRCULATION "Covers Prince Edward Island like the dew"

"The strongest memory is weaker than the weakest ink"

CHARLOTTETOWN MONDAY, APRIL 20, 1953

The Other Side Of Railway Costs

Railway charges, both for passengers and freight have been going up. The impact, particularly of freight rates hits the Maritime Provinces and it is, perhaps, only fair to take a look at the other side of the picture.

A two-unit 1600 h.p. diesel locomotive, for instance costs \$425,000 or the equivalent of about 90 automobiles worth \$2,500 each. The C. N. R. has 170 road diesels in service, equivalent to 85 double units—with 76 more on order.

Such figures, of course, do not justify uneconomically high charges and in particular not discriminatory rates in particular areas. At the same time, however, they are a vivid reminder that transportation costs are high as a result of increased costs of equipment and labour.

Churchill On Agriculture

Speaking recently to the annual dinner of the National Farmers' Union of England and Wales, at which more than 1,000 persons were in attendance, the British Prime Minister, Winston Churchill, said of the importance of British agriculture:

"There is no question of choosing between food production and exports. We must have both, at the highest level, driven forward with fierce energy. But we are resolved to proclaim that the home-grown food of Britain must, with great urgency, be raised by 1956 to 60 per cent above what it was before the war.

"That is a conviction which all political parties share, and all Britons are determined to sustain. We have already raised it, by more than 40 per cent. The job must be finished, and finished soon. That is by no means the end."

A recent FAO report on the agriculture of some European countries placed the United Kingdom fourth on the list in size of farm output, and despite a relatively low production per acre, highest in net output per man.

France accounts for about twice the farm output of Britain, and about a quarter of the production of Europe, as a whole. Next come Italy and Western Germany, followed by the United Kingdom. These four countries, together, produce about three-quarters of the total agricultural production in Europe.

Communist Duplicity

It will be recalled that when rice shortages developed in India and Ceylon, imports were arranged from Communist China. Ceylon obtained 250,000 tons and India 50,000. The Chinese people themselves needed the rice as much as anyone, but they were not permitted to keep it.

"An effective propaganda campaign portrayed the shipments as great humanitarian gestures by 'New China' toward her Asian brothers in their hour of need, and also as testimonials to Chinese prosperity and plenty," says an article in Foreign Affairs. It was sought to convey the impression that Communism had brought such abundance to China that there was now lots of rice to go round and even some to spare.

But the details of the transactions reveal the duplicity. The reason the Communists jumped to supply rice to Ceylon was simply that they wanted rubber from that country. There was no charity. It was a barter deal. Ceylon got rice and

Communist China rubber. That is what the Communists wanted all the time. But they did not hesitate to make it look as though they were making a magnificent gift to Ceylon.

"The arrangement between India and China was not based on a trade agreement, but an outright purchase by India which the Communists nonetheless tried to disguise as charity." Crop failure had brought a shortage in South India, and after long negotiation India agreed to buy 50,000 tons from China at above market prices.

China of course has no rice to spare. What is exported is obtained by imposing hardships on the Chinese people. The Communists do not hesitate to do this. The Peking Government's estimate of production in 1952 was the same as for 1936. But in 1936 China had net imports of 246,000 tons. "No one has ever suggested that there was enough rice for everyone in China in 1936, even with the 246,000 tons imported. The Peking figures indicate that there is less rice available in China today than in 1936, and there has been a tremendous population increase since that year.

EDITORIAL NOTES

This is Freedom Day for the first of the disabled Prisoners of War being exchanged in Korea. It is to be hoped that the other steps in prisoner repatriation and general cease fire arrangements will proceed rapidly.

The eighth annual competition of the P. E. I. Rural Beautification Society is wider than earlier ones, classes having been added for veterans, rural cemeteries and new settlers. The prizes for home and community improvement are generous but the real gain is the pride which Islanders can take in the improvements they have made in their surroundings.

The visit of the German Chancellor, Konrad Adenauer, to Canada symbolizes our very complete burying of the hatchet with the German people. The West German republic is joint-heir with other nations of the devastation resulting from the World Wars. If the Nazis were our enemies, they were even more the enemies of their own people.

The explanation given by Defence Minister Claxton for the closing of the R. C. A. F. No. 1 Navigational School at Summerside is that the needs of both it and No. 2 Navigational School at Winnipeg can be met at Winnipeg. The question naturally arises as to why No. 2 was opened if it merely meant that No. 1 would be closed down as far as being a navigational school is concerned.

Because the Netherlands have too much pork fat, and the surplus can no longer be sold as luncheon meats to the British market due to import restrictions, Dutch manufacturers of margarine are now required to include four per cent of lard or pork fat in margarine. Meat processors in the Netherlands may sell 143 pounds of fat to margarine manufacturers, for every 220 pounds of hams processed.

Flood damage in the Netherlands is estimated at \$250 million. Over 100 breaks in the dykes led to the loss of 50,000 cows, pigs, horses and sheep, and the flooding of 330,000 acres of arable and pasture land. Wheat production will probably be down 12 per cent and potatoes 10 per cent. Crop losses for the 1953 season are estimated at 15 per cent of the barley land, 20 per cent of flax land, and 20 per cent of land used for sugar beets.

In April 1403, according to ancient Korean records as vouched for by UNESCO, the first moveable metal printing type was cast, on the order of King Hung Ting Wang. Up to that time, type had been made from terracotta "but these characters", complained the old document, "were too easily broken . . . then types were made of bronze in order to preserve them forever. . . . Fortunately through the inventive wisdom of the sages of our dynasty, who have discovered the art of casting type to print books, all classics, histories, books of philosophy and literary collections are in every home." Metallic type was first used in Europe forty years later.

The Poet's Corner

THE COMMON STREET

The common street climbed up against the sky. Gray meeting gray; and wearily to and fro I saw the patient common people go.

Each, with his sordid burden, trudging by. And the rain dropped; there was not any sigh Or stir of a live wind; dull, dull and slow All motion; as a tale told long ago The faded world; and creeping night drew high.

—Helen Gray Cone.

Old Charlottetown (And P. E. I.)

A PIONEER ACADIAN

From the obituary columns of the Royal Gazette, Dec. 10, 1883: "Died on the 21st ult. at St. Joseph's, Egmont Bay, at the advanced age of 90, Joseph Arseneaux, one of the oldest native Acadians of this Colony. At the capture of the Island from the French, in 1758, he acquired, and has ever since retained, the sobriquet of 'League and Half,' his knowledge of the English language being confined to these three words, which formed the only answer he could give to all the questions which were put to him by the British Officers, whom he was frequently in the habit of meeting in the neighborhood of St. Peter's Bay, where he then resided. He was much esteemed by all who knew him, and his character was that of an honest, hospitable and charitable Christian."

Most Are Visualizers (Vancouver Sun.)

There's sound scientific fact behind the assertion of Ovetta Culp Hobby, United States federal security administrator, that newspapers are a more "stable" source of communication than radio.

Newspapers convey a more lasting message because the majority of people remember chiefly by seeing.

Psychology teaches that perception is accomplished in three ways — by hearing and by muscular action. People who remember by seeing are visualizers. People who remember by hearing are audiles, people who remember by moving the lips or inaudibly forming words in the mouth and throat, are motiles.

Everybody is more or less a combination of all three. But some psychologists estimate that those who perceive and remember largely by the eye message make up about 70 per cent of human beings.

That means that roughly 70 per cent must see a thing to understand and remember it. That's what makes newspapers the most "stable" source of communication.

But there's another factor too. In the case of radio or television perception must be instantaneous. There's no going back for a second check.

Radio and television flash their message and they're gone.

For The Humanities (Montreal Star)

In his study of the Humanities for the Royal Commission on Arts, Letters and Sciences, Dr. Malcolm Wallace, professor emeritus of University College, wrote: "No ambition is more laudable today than the ambition to make even a small contribution to clearer thinking, for this is a necessary preliminary to wise action." It was part of Dr. Albert Trueman's address before the Canadian Club yesterday that a knowledge of language is essential to clearer thinking. Indeed, that clear thinking is impossible without it.

How few of us develop our mother tongue beyond the limited vocabulary required for everyday needs. Most of us use that limited vocabulary badly. We talk with a verbal limp. Listen to almost any street car conversation to learn with what difficulty most people express themselves. It is the thesis of the president of the University of New Brunswick that there is a firm link between knowledge of the language and clear thinking and that the schools should return to the emphasis formerly placed on grammar and to Latin to direct the student's attention to the anatomy of language.

We are caught up in vocational training almost to the exclusion of the humanities. Skills have become more important than the thinking process developed by the humanities. Yet life is richer against the cultural background the humanities provide. We can have this as well as the skills if we wish. The problem is one for the schools to solve. It is true that the complexities of modern living have forced them into the vocational field to the detriment of the cultural. They would be wise to heed the warnings of Dr. Trueman and others that this way lies the decline of comprehension.

The Neighbors By George Clark



"I've asked you not to talk back to your mother. Think what a regular baby sitter would cost us."

The Abbey Bell Ringers (BBC Bulletin)

Early on the morning of Coronation Day Harold Pitstow and his colleagues will climb the winding staircase to the ringing chamber in Westminster Abbey's North-West Tower, and there they will stay until the evening. Bells will ring all over the British Commonwealth on the day the Queen is crowned, but Mr. Pitstow will be responsible for the most important peal of all which will be rung at the actual moment of the Coronation. Mr. Pitstow will conduct the ringers in the Abbey's Coronation peal as he did at the Coronation of King George VI, and so far as he knows the arrangements will be the same as those made last time.

An officer stationed near the Coronation Chair told the ringers by telephone when the King had been crowned and the bells were then rung for two minutes. They were not rung in changes but were "fired" or rung so that they sounded as one bell, the ringers' Royal Salute. After this they were silent until the King and Queen left the Abbey to drive back to the Palace when the bells started in rounds.

Saving The Library (Ottawa Citizen)

Only in the Parliamentary Library does the Canadian visiting the heart of government have the feeling of great age and profound knowledge. The impact of the circular room, laden with books, some read by Sir John A. MacDonald and Sir Wilfrid Laurier, is reflected in the attitude of the tourists who come there under the guidance of members of the security staff. Their voices are hushed as they examine the statue of Queen Victoria, touch the carved varnished wood and attempt to estimate the number of books ringing in long rows to the base of the tower.

Parliament, with its long dependence on the Library, displayed in recent days not only its appreciation of the information thus made available to help the nation's business but also its respect for years and dignity. Mr. Fournier's statement that the tower would be restored in its old form was welcomed and there was commendation of the plan that the exterior appearance, as well as exterior, should be retained unchanged as far as possible.

After the disastrous fire in the tower last August there some who thought the old round building should be replaced by a modern structure which would be a utilitarian third wing of the Parliament Buildings. They had modernity on their side and nothing else. Their last argument was dismissed with the statement of Mr. Fournier that the restored building can be made fireproof with the carved wood on the shelves retained and treated with a new process to reduce, if not eliminate, the danger of burning.

This protection for the old wood will give particular satisfaction to the Ottawa Valley. When a group of Commonwealth foresters visited Ottawa last year Mayor Whitton, with her interest in the history of this area said she was sorry she could not take them to the spot taken from white pine cut in the Valley at Confederation. The Ottawa Valley white pine, which gave the masts to British men-of-war in famous battles more than a century ago, no longer is found in magnificent stands; the intricate carved wood in the Library may be a poor substitute for that vanished glory in nature but many Canadians would be pained if it had to be ripped out and cast away.

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Notes By The Way

"Horatio Alger awards" are made annually to those who have risen from rags to riches in the Alger manner. It must be growing harder, though, to find anyone who got his start by saving the banker's daughter when the horse ran away.—Edmonton Journal.

Milkmen in Birmingham, England have been instructed to report to the police when the bottles of milk are not taken in by people who they know are living alone. A good idea that should be universally adopted.—St. Thomas Times-Journal.

Remember when we used to drive happily here and there without stop lights, organize mass startling shoots, have time to talk to the cop on the corner or the mortician, get a good cigar for a nickel, live within five miles of London, have good materials in our suits, save up to buy a new driver, make our own ice cream and sit on our verandah at nights?—London Free Press.

Few persons, even in Vancouver, realize that the Vancouver International Airport is the busiest airport in Canada. The Hon. Ralph Campney appropriately pointed to this fact in officially opening the great new runway at the airport recently. In 1952 more than 200,000 landings and takeoffs were logged at the airport. This is an average of 550 a day every day of the year, or one takeoff or landing every three minutes. The second busiest airport in Canada is Edmonton's. But Vancouver logged 70,000 more landings and takeoffs last year than Edmonton.—Vancouver News-Herald.

The formal air force review has always been the "fly-past," in which squadrons of aircraft fly in close formation, wing tips only a few feet from one another. The jet age has made this tradition a fatally dangerous one for dozens of expert flyers. The reason is obvious. An aircraft flying at 600 miles an hour is going almost 1,000 feet a second. At that speed, as an RCAF veteran put it, "a cough can kill you." The fraction of a second it takes to cough, with controls of the plane suspended, is quite long enough to send the plane crashing into one of its fellows. The loss of airman's lives in fly-pasts is a reality, a grim reality demanding serious reconsideration.—Montreal Gazette.

There is an ever-present danger for woodsmen who use an axe. It is that the axe might slip by some mischance and cut the foot. Axes must be kept very sharp, and the length of the handle is such as to make the foot a likely place to hit. A sharp axe, swung with heft, cuts through the stoutest boot. Lumberjacks thus will be interested in the development of cut-proof boots, made with a closely woven nylon lining similar to that used in bullet-proof jackets in Korea. Thus, if an axe slips, it wouldn't cut the foot, even though it might leave a nasty bruise.—New Windsor Star.

PROFESSIONAL CARDS

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