

THE GUARDIAN

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"The Strongest Memory is Weaker Than the Weakest Ink."

CHARLOTTETOWN, MONDAY, JULY 17, 1950

Decentralized D. V. A.

Mr. Lucien Lalonde, Deputy Minister of Veterans' Affairs, recently announced that decentralization is already in effect with respect to War Veterans' Allowances, and that twenty major Canadian cities, each heading a Department of Veterans' Affairs district, will by Autumn have offices and personnel with authority to make decisions on these allowances or "burnt-out pensions" as they are known.

The move is all to the good and in line with the Department's policy in other matters. It was obviously a hardship that veterans applying for the allowance could not approach the officials ultimately responsible for granting or refusing their application. It was also inevitable that the necessity to submit all such requests for aid to Ottawa should in many cases result in delays which bore heavily on needy veterans even while the allowance was granted.

With the new responsibility, local officers must be careful to exercise broadened discretion. Veterans with a meritorious case but technical objections will no longer be able to have their problems placed before higher authority. The high authority is now local, and all proper considerations must be taken into account, as indeed those familiar with the local officials know will be done.

New Satellite in Ottawa's Galaxy

The National Film Board is the latest offspring of the Federal Government to set up housekeeping on its own. It is now about to join its sister organization the CBC as the newest satellite in Ottawa's galaxy, no longer responsible to Parliament but attached to its parent only by the gravitational pull of a \$700,000 revolving fund and a disposition on the parent's part to assume some measure of responsibility for deficits.

Such is the effect of steps presently being taken at Ottawa to free the Government of responsibility in Parliament for the activities of NFB. Once they have been put into action, Resources Minister Winters will be able to disclaim at least on technical grounds any interest in the Film Board's doings. Commissioner Irwin becomes the new czar, with powers no less sweeping than those enjoyed by CBC Chairman Dunton.

NFB has always proven a difficult offspring. Nobody will be more pleased than Mr. Winters at the prospect of separation. But the emergence of NFB as yet another of the strange creatures of the crown spawned by the Federal Government really solves nothing. Rather, it makes the situation that much worse. For the controversy which surrounds all efforts of the Government to operate agencies of propaganda thinly disguised as instrumentalities of culture will be accentuated rather than lessened by a course of action which will give the NFB freedom to do what it likes, to hire whom it will, and to produce whatever films it wishes while the Government, apart from providing funds, washes its hands of the whole business.

Realistic Appraisal

To a series of articles on Canada by well-known writers and public figures, appearing in the current number of United Nations World, Prime Minister Louis St. Laurent has contributed, by way of introduction, a brief, realistic appraisal of the present state of affairs within the world organization.

After noting the unwarranted optimism of 1945 and the resulting discouragement, Mr. St. Laurent observes:

"I suggest . . . that we should not despair at the failure of the United Nations to solve many of the problems which have been thrust upon it in the immediate post-war world. The course of wisdom surely lies not in despair or in cynicism but in a determination not to let the foundations crumble. We are faced with the need, at the same time, to devise practical means of dealing with immediate problems and to maintain sufficient faith in the ultimate objective of peace based on goodwill.

"This is the simple doctrine of perseverance, based on the conviction that an international community of mutually co-operating states is both possible and desirable. It is thus predicated on the abandonment of some narrow concepts of national sovereignty, and it calls for constant emphasis by educators, writers, government spokesmen and public alike, on the ultimate ideal of a peaceful world community, based on mutual

confidence in and respect for international undertakings. Meanwhile we dare not shrink from facing the unpleasant realities of the present day world, when peace for ourselves seems to depend on preparedness to resist by force, all possible aggression. Let us, however, never lose sight of the ultimate objective which we have pledged ourselves to attain through the United Nations."

Since this was written the "unpleasant realities" have been underlined by events in Korea. It becomes therefore all the more necessary to keep in view the ultimate goal.

EDITORIAL NOTES

The many resolutions on education and other matters touching the family being passed these days at political conventions, indicate that the feminine influence is on the increase in affairs of state.

Mr. T. B. Johnson, of Rectory Farm, Great Easton, Leicestershire, is trying to revive the old breed of long-horn cattle, almost extinct in England, and has received enquiries for bulls from the Maritimes as well as South Africa. There surely must be expectation of a boon in the horn goods industry.

Stocks of fish in storage are down considerably from last year indicating that the "eat more fish" campaign of the industry and Government has met with success. Like a rolling train, however, if the present rate of consumption is to be maintained or increased, there should be no let up in publicity efforts.

That both North and South Korea should have promised to observe the Geneva Conventions respecting treatment of prisoners of war is matter for rejoicing. Examples of atrocity by the Red forces could easily have led to retaliation in kind by the South and its supporters, leading to the grimest kind of contest in senseless brutality.

Surrender of elements of national sovereignty is necessary before anything resembling world government becomes possible. The six Western European countries led by France have been forced to that step by the nearness of danger to their national existence from without. Most other nations prefer to retain their independence of action, and will probably so continue until similarly threatened.

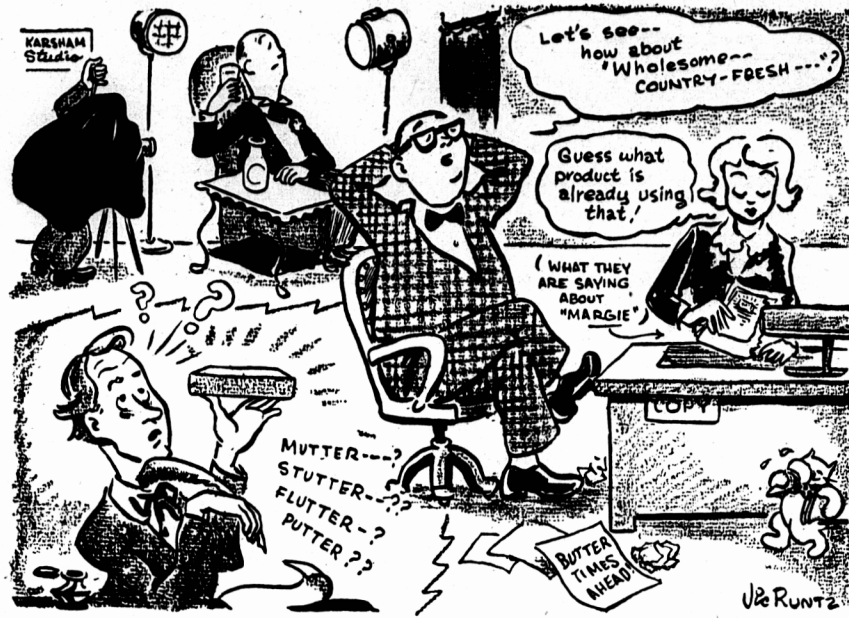
Czechoslovakia has now joined East Germany in charging the United States with spreading potato bugs in Central Europe. Yet, comments an exchange, if the Lysenko theory of biology is correct, these bugs should be influenced by the Soviet environment, instead of acting true to their heredity. They should be working for the state, not sabotaging it. The potato bugs oughtn't to do such things.

A great deal is to be said for the suggestion of our Public Forum correspondent, Miss Doris A. Moore, of Ottawa, that much could be accomplished here by the adoption of small culture in the way of vegetables and fruits for home consumption, instead of supplying the demand by costly importation. The trouble hitherto has been there is not the home consumption to warrant the hot-house expenditure. But should the three initial years warrant the investment of the necessary capital this could be overcome by catering to the export market.

James Abbot McNeill Whistler, American artist, died this date, 1903. After studying in Paris, he settled in England. His first painting, "The White Girl", was exhibited at the Salon des Refuses. In 1859 he began to exhibit in the Royal Academy, painting figure subjects and views, also many portraits, including those of his mother exhibited at Luxembourg and Paris, and Carlyle at Glasgow; he was eminent as an etcher, drypainter, and purely decorative artist; was pioneer of mass-impressionism in English art.

The glass windshield of an automobile is intended for the driver to see through, so that he will know where he is going and will not endanger himself or others. The rear window is intended so the driver can see in his rear-vision mirror what traffic is behind him so that he can take reasonable safety precautions. However, the impression seems to prevail among some motorists that the front window is put in by the car makers so there will be a place to put stickers on and dangle kewpie dolls from, using any vacant places for girl friends' photos. The back window, by the same token, is a place to pile up with travel folders, lunch boxes, fishing tackle and hats, leaving enough room for the kids to see through and make faces at oncoming motorists. Any driver permitting this is only piling up trouble for himself as well as others.

Putting in A Good Word For Dairy Produce



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.

WOULD LIKE TO COME AGAIN

Sir.—On behalf of the Agricultural Institute of Canada I wish to express to you our sincere appreciation for the excellent coverage you gave our recent annual meeting and convention in your city. The many courtesies extended by the press, other organizations, the City and the Government of the Province of Prince Edward Island were responsible, to a large degree, for the success of this annual event. Looking forward to being with you again before too long. am, Sir, etc. G. GORDON O'BRIEN, General Secretary, Agricultural Institute of Canada. Ottawa, July 14.

VIEWS APPROVED

Sir.—You will understand, I believe, the delay in writing to thank you for the excellent editorial on life insurance that appeared in The Guardian of the Gulf on June 13 last, when I tell you that my home is in Winnipeg. You know what a trying time we have had in Winnipeg but now that conditions have become normal again, I am now able to attend more closely to the duties of the president of the Association. One of these duties, a happy one for me, is to express to you the appreciation of the entire life insurance business in Canada for the sentiment expressed in this particular editorial. It is indeed pleasing to the industry to know that you think so highly of life insurance that you expressed your thoughts the way you did. Again, thanks! I am, Sir, etc. G. C. CUMMING, The Canadian Life Insurance Officers' Association Winnipeg, July 12, 1950.

Air-Raid Shelter In Cliffs

The use of rock-tunnelling technique in cliff faces adjacent to Canadian cities to develop extensive air raid shelters was urged for the first time today by Brig. Colin Campbell. "Many Canadian cities are admirably situated for the creation of cliff-face shelters against even the worst bombing attacks," he said. He cited Vancouver's mountain slopes, Ottawa's Parliament Hill and Montreal's "mountain" as ideal examples. "The shelters could be 'scooped' out of the cliffs so that they would have a ground-level entrance. They could be conveniently utilized for key industries and government offices as well as for personnel. Brig. Campbell, now a consulting engineer in Toronto, headed the wartime 1st Tunnelling Company, R. C. E., which helped build the great underground raid defenses of Gibraltar, Britain's south coast and metropolitan London. After the war, he directed tunnelling operations through hard-rock mountain country for the great hydro development at Tummal River, Scotland. He is recognized as one of the best-informed authorities on shelter construction in the world. Brig. Campbell suggested that Canada's engineering resources should be immediately geared to create bomb shelters in cliff surrounded cities. "A program of this sort could hardly be done speedily," he said, "but with an ample force of men and equipment shelters could be driven rapidly to give ample protection against anything." "It is far better to think of these things now than when trouble strikes. When we are in trouble, the going is tougher."

The Age-Old Story

There shall be no evil happen to the just, but the wicked shall be filled with mischief.

Old Charlottetown

(And P. E. I.)

PEWS FOR LEGISLATORS

The following items of Supply appear in the estimates voted by the House of Assembly in April, 1948: "The sum of Ten Pounds, to defray the expense of Government Pews in Saint Paul's Church, for the present year. "The sum of Six Pounds, to be paid to the trustees of Saint James's Church, for the use of a Pew in that Church for the Officers of Government and Members of the Legislature. "The sum of Six Pounds, to be paid to the trustees of the Wesleyan Methodist Chapel, for the use of a Pew in that place of worship, for the Legislature, for the present year. "The sum of Forty Pounds, to be paid to the Committee for building the new Roman Catholic Church in Charlottetown, for the purpose of procuring a Pew there for the use of the Members of the Legislature and Officers of Government, and also to provide accommodation for such of Her Majesty's Troops as may attend divine worship there."

Temporizing On Drunk Driving Issue

(Montreal Gazette) It is curious to find an organized body of women, who might be assumed to be especially alive to the menace of drunken drivers to children as well as adults, seeming to temporize on the issue of tightening up enforcement of the law against these bemused operators of potentially death-dealing machines on the roads. The recent annual convention of the Canadian Federation of Business and Professional Women's Clubs shelved without action a resolution calling for compulsory blood and breath tests of suspected drunken drivers, and generally more deterrent disposition of cases brought before the courts. A majority of delegates to the convention appeared to have been swayed by arguments typified by the declared views of Miss Margaret Hyndman, K.C., a noted Toronto lawyer. She dealt with the matter primarily from a legalistic standpoint rather than as a problem of social control and adequate punishment of criminal offences. She opposed tests for drunkenness on the ground that they would be an unwarranted trampling on personal rights and the "sanctity of the individual."

SEATTLE, July 14 (AP)—Alaska's population jumped 75 per cent in 11 years and one city—Anchorage—showed a gain of 219 per cent, the United States Bureau of Census announced today. The territory's population now is 127,117, compared to 72,524 in 1939.

WASHINGTON, July 14 (AP)—The Senate Labor Committee yesterday shelved a bill to outlaw rail strikes.

HOLLYWOOD, July 14 (AP)—Brooklyn's Jackie Robinson figures to do all right, financially, on the "Jackie Robinson Story," a movie dealing with the racial problem. Reports are he will make at least \$50,000. He worked only 18 days in the picture.

COMPLETE VISUAL REFRACTION and ANALYSIS

G. F. HUTCHESON & SON Optometrists 55 Grafton St.

J.P. MacPherson & Son MEN'S CLOTHING THAT FITS 157 Queen Street

The Poet's Corner

SONG OF THE MAD PRINCE

Who said 'Peacock Pie?' The old King to the sparrow: Who said, 'Crops are ripe?' Rust to the harrow: Who said, 'Where sleeps she now?' Where rests she now her head? Bathed in dew's loveliness? That's what I said. Who said, 'Ay, mum's the word?' Sexton to willow: Who said, 'Green dusk for dreams? Moss for a pillow?' Who said, 'All Time's delight? Hath she for narrow bed? Life's trouble, bubble broken?' That's what I said. —Walter de la Mare

Coal For Pigs

Pigs seem to like to eat coal, and many people have believed that coal has a beneficial effect on the growth and general condition of swine. Investigators at the University of Wisconsin came up with the answer: that there is nothing to this idea. Certainly the pigs like to eat coal, but it seems to be just because they like chewing on something which crunches. These investigators conducted two feeding trials, in each of which a group of pigs was divided into three lots. Each lot was fed a good basic ration of corn and oats, soybean oil meal, tankage and alfalfa leaf meal. One lot received no coal; the second, soft coal, free choice; and the third, hard coal, free choice. The pigs ate the coal all right, particularly when they were in the period of middle growth, and the average of coal consumption indicated that when fed coal, free choice, a pig would consume up to one-quarter pound per day. When fed coal the pig also will take more feed per pound of gain, especially if they are fed soft coal. However, this is a decrease in efficiency which, when added to the cost of the coal, increased the cost of gain substantially. This was true to the extent that the pigs fed soft coal put on gain at a cost of \$1.15 per hundred pounds more than when no coal was fed. The extra cost in the case of those fed hard coal was 42 cents per hundred pounds.

One of the illusions held by dwellers in big cities is that in the smaller cities the nights are quiet. We do not know anywhere this illusion could be shattered.

Notes By The Way

Visitors to the recent International Stamp Exhibition in London were asked to choose the finest of 60 stamps issued since 1940. The Canadian 50-cent "Bluenose" stamp was placed in the first ten. Fifty-six percent of the votes went to the famous "Penny Black," depicting Queen Victoria in the morning of her reign. Second in the ballot was the one issued "Silver Wedding" stamp issued in 1948. —UK Information Office.

When the delegates to the Commonwealth Press Conference visited Toronto, they were taken in buses on a sight-seeing tour of the city. So far as the occupants of one bus were concerned, their local hosts had to correct several choice bits of information imparted to them by the guide provided by the transportation line. He was a university student, and if ever he goes in for imaginative fiction he ought to do quite well. For instance, at Casa Loma, the famous castle built by the late Sir Henry Pellatt, he wove an entrancing tapestry of life as it used to be lived there. He said that Sir Henry had had his wife's bathroom equipped with 12 gold taps out of which came 12 different exotic perfumes. And as for the stables, he said that the stalls for the horses to stand on. All in all, the overseas visitors were rather impressed by Casa Loma. —Toronto Financial Post.

That Harvard professor who has trained pigeons to play the piano and perform other feats in order to obtain food should investigate the pigeons of Chicago's Loop. He makes much of the fact that he has trained a pair of pigeons to co-operate. Without benefit of college educations, Chicago's pigeons have been doing that for years. You can see them on the platform of any L station. A dozen or so will gang up on a likely looking prospect, assuming lean and hungry looks, emitting mournful moans, and pecking imploring at the prospect's heels. Let him drop a penny in one of the peanut machines and dozens more swoop down from all directions. We haven't any doubt that if one tossed a penny to one of these self-educated beggars, he would be able to drop it in the proper slot and get a handful of peanuts. The most willing of all grasses to live is the grass of many names, not all of them printable. Couch, Kooch, twitch or quack grass is probably the liveliest thing in the whole vegetable kingdom. It can be attacked with fire and sword, mattock and hoe, cultivators and weed diggers, but unless every last little bit of root is captured, crated and dumped far out to sea, it will spring back into fresh green life invigorated by the encounter. Apart from being a thorn in the sides of gardeners, couch grass seems to have no particular function. Discriminating horse, goats and cattle do not hold it in high regard as something to chew on. Rabbits spurn it the stuff as tough and coarse. It is the bane of lawn mowers and causes a sweat to start on the brow of the scythe wielder. Couch grass will gleefully choke its less hardy comrades of the field out of business. It turns brown and drab when it has nothing else to do. It is arrogant because of its quasi-immortality. —Winnipeg Tribune.

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PROFESSIONAL CARDS

Professional cards for Joseph R. MacMillan, Chas. R. McQuaid, Frederic A. Large, K.C., Matheson & Peake, MacPhee & Trainor, Gaudet & Hazzard, John P. Nicholson, Dr. A. L. MacIsaac, Dr. W. R. Carson, M. Alban Farmer, J. A. McGuigan, H. E. Doane & Co., and McDonald, Currie & Co.