

DO YOU UNDERSTAND ALL YOU READ? IS QUESTION PUT BY ENGLISH WRITER

Anonymous in the Manchester
Guardian

Understanding is at the opposite pole from relativity, I suppose. Two people may both like a book and their likings may be quite different, but when they both understand it their understanding is the same. That, no doubt, is why poetry is of all forms of writing the most difficult to understand. It is written to be liked, and unless it is liked cannot be understood; but it contains a great many separably likeable elements, and to combine the likings of them all in a proper mixture, which is the condition really, of poetical understanding, is an extremely subtle piece of business. For that reason I shrink, I must admit, from reading new poetry; it is such hard work. I am continually led away by the rhythms and the word-sounds, and find at the end of a page or a stanza that I have not the slightest idea of what it has all been about. I have just been having a grand battle with Mr. John Freeman's "Collected Poems," and feel as if I had slain my thousands and tens of thousands. He is more baffling to me than many because he uses his music particularly delicately. You might suppose that if the rhythm was not obvious it would be easy enough to read a piece for the sense, as if it were prose. But I do not find it works that way. The soft, shy pulse attracts the more because it baffles, and only by a moral effort can I divert my attention from the mere sentences and the meaning the convey. Once this is done I realize that the thought could hardly have been more simply or more languidly expressed, but, after repeated attempts, some of the longer poems still defeat me; "Beachwood," for instance. I wonder how many times I have started on it, now beginning in the middle, now at the end, and taking it in sections backwards, block by block. If you have never tried this method with a tough poem, let me fervently recommend it! It is rather like trying to tunnel through a mountain from two sides. I have nearly got "Beachwood," some day I shall get it, unless my review pile mounts up too high; then I shall delight in it as much as I do now in "Renewal" or "One Night." But at present it is like looking at an army on the march in a winding valley; when the rear is in view, the van has rounded a corner, and when you climb a knoll to see both you shut out the middle men. "Understandest thou what thou readest?" Perhaps is a bit out of date to look for understanding. Mr. T. S. Eliot's poetry goes into edition after edition, and beyond it there is Mr. Sacheverell Sitwell's, not to mention other more distant stars and nebulae. Thousands of people must have passed their eyes over the pages on which Mr. Eliot's poems have been printed; and if I say I cannot believe they have understood them, I am probably exhibiting not so much my malice as my stupidity. The attitude of understanding in regard to poetry like this probably one in which understanding itself is set aside. You drink the draught and wait for the effect; you do not consider what the poem means while you read it, you consider what you are, or what is left of you, when it is read. Personally I have got some sort of antitoxins in me; I remain what I was; but I confess that I do not try the experiment very frequently. Philosophy is, on the whole easier than poetry, because you need not like it; at least you are not expected to like it unless you understand it. But here again we get into difficulties. The zest of philosophy is that no one has ever succeeded in explaining anything. That we are here and that the great show goes on in an unfathomable wonder. It cannot be and yet is. Perhaps that is why we still read the philosophers even when we least understand them. They cannot, after all, be more unintelligible than the reality that they are writing about and, at the worst, leave us in the fog in which they found us and in which they find themselves. Have you tried to read a book called "Religion in the Making?" It was delivered in four lec-

tures to Harvard boys. Try half a page every other day. I have not attacked it quite as often as Mr. Freeman's poetry, but I have got about as far into it, only with a doubt whether I shall ever get any farther. It is worth doing, because you strike here and there a sentence which casts a beam of light back to the beginnings of history; then, if you have luck, one beam meets another, and when that happens the excitement of philosophy catches hold of you. The author, Professor Whitehead, is also, of course, the author of "Science and the Modern World," a book which "everybody" has read. Some of its easier, some of it is much more difficult. I don't know if it has ever occurred to you, but it is surely true that the people who are most upset by modern developments are the people who imagine they have understood things and who then seem to see things going contrary to understanding. One of the charms of Professor Whitehead's writing is that it is wholly free from any protests of that kind; that it has no illusions even about philosophy. Why hope to understand what no man ever has? But why not try to take a stroke or two in the direction of understanding? The way to that is to realize that what is now happening to ourselves is the only key we have to what has always happened and that the mystery and the solution of the mystery touch us together in everything we touch and are visible to us whenever we open our eyes. The truth holds good even when what we are touching and looking at is a book.

POLES IN PANIC IN DANGER ZONE

Warsaw, July 25—A condition bordering on panic prevailed yesterday among Poles residing near the Lithuanian frontier, the situation becoming more acute when the news that a Polish soldier had been killed at Neutroki by members of the Lithuanian rifle guild.

A tense situation has existed between Poland and Lithuania for several weeks over the failure to reach an agreement concerning possession of Vilna. Poland has charged that Lithuania was preparing an invasion.

CHILEAN FLOOD

Santiago, Chile, July 25—Ten persons were drowned and numerous houses swept away in floods at Aysen, according to despatches yesterday to The Nation. Several bridges also were destroyed. Communications have been interrupted by the port of Aysen and with Coyaique.

SCHOOL GIRL DELIVERS ICE

Philadelphia, July 25—Clara Linski high school girl, helps her father deliver ice and in her spare time takes long distance swims. She and Tillie Kupsin, a school chum have just swum 13½ miles in the Delaware river. They wore axle grease.

MEMORY MANAGEMENT

"There are interesting systems for improving the memory. They should be handled with care answered Senator Sorghum. What many persons need is an education in discreet forgetfulness."

WILLING TO COMPLY

Hardware Cashier—This check is probably all right, but have you anything about you by which you could be identified?

Fair Customer (blushing)—I have a mole on my left elbow.

Wife (seeing husband attacked by bees): "Run honey, run!"

Husband—Don't call me honey for heaven's sake! You are making 'em desperate!

What this country needs is a lawn grass with some sort of thyroid deficiency so it will be stunted.

LORD AND LADY WILLINGDON AT JASPER PARK

Jasper Park Lodge, Alta., July 26—After several weeks of strenuous journeying which included their first trip to the wealthy Peace River country, the Governor General and Lady Willingdon settled down at Jasper Park Lodge for a quiet nine days. They spent part of the day renewing acquaintance with the golf course, which gave them such pleasure last fall and it is likely that golf will take up most of their time while they are here. Their excellencies both played the 10 holes this morning, shortly after their arrival and Lord Willingdon went around again in the early evening while her Excellency enjoyed a swim. With Their Excellencies are Viscount Hardings, Captain, the Hon. J. G. Jarvis and Capt. Melville. The vice regal party is occupying the self contained cottage overlooking Lac Beauvert. "The plans are not definitely settled," said Capt. Melville this afternoon. "We have been very busy for some weeks past and Their Excellencies have looked forward to their visit to Jasper Park to rest." "Rest," of course includes golf, and for Lady Willingdon whose energetic ideal of rest is another form of activity; swimming and riding. Plans have been sketched for a long trail trip for her and it is not unlikely that she will ride to Pocatontas and the famous Miette Hot Springs. Her enthusiasm for the trails of Jasper Park has grown ever since she made the trip to Maligne last year. This evening the Governor General was the guest of honor at a dinner party given in the lodge by R. H. Knight, superintendent of the park. Among the guests were Hon. Charles Stewart, Minister of the Interior; Sir Henry Thornton, K.B.E., President and Chairman of the Canadian National Railways; Dr. R. McComb, Chief Medical Officer of the National System; V. A. Kingsland, General Manager of the Western Lines, and H. A. Dixon, Chief Engineer of the Canadian National Railways, Western Region, and L. Aubert, Norwegian Consul General for Canada.

QUEBEC POLICE FIND RIFLES IN SUSPECTED HOME

Quebec July 25—Three officers from the Department of Justice at Ottawa and a squad of investigators under Chief of Detectives Rioux of the Provincial Police, were today inquiring into the circumstances surrounding the discovery in a house at Sillery, suburb of Quebec, of a stock of dynamite, rifles and ammunition and a radio outfit said to be capable of communicating with European capitals.

Two men, Arsene Nelna, 21, and Auguste Nelna, 64, son and father, who occupied the house, were arrested and brought before the Court of Sessions. Arsene, who was born in Lemberg, Russia, but has been a resident of Quebec for nineteen years, was charged with having stolen a "kolster decremeter," a radio instrument, the property of the Canadian Marconi Company and with having illegally in his possession fifty pounds of dynamite and several boxes of detonators. He pleaded guilty but was not sentenced, being remanded for preliminary trial until next Friday. The elder Nelna, who was charged jointly with his son of having the explosive in his possession, pleaded not guilty. He was also remanded for trial on Friday. Both the accused were committed to jail without bail.

INJURED CHILD DIES

Sherbrooke, Que. July 25—Badly burned when his night clothes caught fire early yesterday morning, little Marcel Fontaine, four year's old, of Richmond, died in the St. Vincent de Paul Hospital this morning, as a result of his injuries. The exact circumstances of the sad accident which claimed the life of the boy are not known as yet, beyond the fact that his night gown caught fire through the child playing with matches.

BABY CAMEL'S BIRTHPLACE PUZZLING SPARKS TROUPE

A little snow-white baby camel, from the American side of the river, said to be the only specimen of its kind ever born outside of India, is causing more discussion among the army of employees with the Sparks Circus than any menagerie attraction ever carried by the big show.

Whether the camel was born in Canada or in the United States is the question which is puzzling the Messrs. Sparks as well as the entire personnel of the circus which he will be exhibited in.

Recently while the Sparks organization was en route from Saranac Lake, New York, to Cornwall, Ontario, "Della," the largest of the female camels in the show's menagerie, became a mother. The several animal experts who were present at the ceremony can't seem to agree as to just where the event took place.

According to Frank Woska, superintendent of the menagerie, the new camel made his debut while the show trains were on the Canadian side of the international bridge, which crosses the St. Lawrence River at Cornwall. Walter McLain, elephant trainer and veterinary, agrees that the youngster was born while the train was on the bridge, but says the camel car was exactly half-way across the structure when the birth was recorded. McLain says he took particular pains to satisfy his curiosity on this point in order to determine the camel's nationality.

John C. Kelley, legal adjuster with the circus, is positive that the little dromedary made the world premiere in United States territory, not more than three car-lengths, or 228 feet

Kelley says that the trains were travelling very slowly at the time and he was able to definitely place the spot in question.

In any event, when the circus entered Canada, the lengthy manifest required by customs and immigration authorities, listing all of the big show's animals, made no mention of a baby camel. Miss Ione Carl, lion trainer, says that this fact alone proves that the camel must be Canadian-born, for there was no such animal in existence when the circus officially left the United States. Something like two hundred of the Sparks performers seem to share Ione's opinion.

On the other hand, as Miachahua, the celebrated fire artist, reasons, it is certain that the camel was very much alive when the circus arrived in Canada, establishing the fact that his birth must have occurred in the United States before he reached the Dominion. Miss Bessie Hollis, featured rider, and a couple of hundred other "white-top" entertainers, are in accord with this version.

Entirely ignorant of all the commotion he is causing the little fellow is thriving under the excellent care given him by "Della" and the menagerie staff and is now being exhibited in the menagerie with his mother.

Whether the camel will be allowed to enter the United States without customs difficulties after the show's extensive tour of Canada remains to be seen. It will all depend on the decision of customs authorities and their interpretation of the law regard-

PITTED CANNED CHERRIES

3 pounds cherries
3 cups sugar
1 cup water

Wash, steam and pit the cherries, saving the juice. Boil sugar and water 10 minutes; skim carefully. Put cherries into well sterilized jars, pour the syrup over them adjust the rubbers which have been dipped into boiling water; then put on well sterilized lids. Fasten and put jars into boiler or rack; cover tops of jars; cover the boiler and boil 15 min.; remove and when cold, put in cool dark place. Be sure they do not leak. The juice from the cherries is added to the sugar and water before boiling.

SEASICK REMEDY

The seas were rolling high as the steward approached the hardware magnate at the rail.

"Anything I can get you sir" he asked.

"Yes" said the other wearily "I'd like a small island."

Son—I say mater, you remember you said the dentist was painless?

Mother—Well?

Son—He isn't. When I bit his finger he yelled like mad.

ing such matters.

Charles Sparks, manager of the big show, is of the impression that if the camel was born on the boundary line, as McLain's story indicates, he is eligible to citizenship in either country and may choose the one he likes best.

He has been christened "Canusa," a name suggested by a Halifax boy; "Can" for Canada and "Usa" for the United States of America.



After Trying in Vain—

"I feel it my duty as a mother to recommend Eagle Brand. Three months after my baby was born doctor ordered me to take him off the breast, instructing me to use several different foods. After trying in vain, with Baby's health failing, I was advised to try Eagle Brand Condensed Milk. After the first few bottles we noticed a vast improvement. I entered my Baby in a Baby Contest and he took first prize for being the most perfect baby. He is now 2½ years old and weighs 33 lbs. Mrs. C., Toronto"

No Other Food Would Agree

"No other food would agree with my baby and while in the midst of a dose of double pneumonia we started him on your famous Eagle Brand and now he is a fine, rosy-checked boy of 18 lbs. at eight months and so full of life I hardly know what to do with him. Mrs. C., Ontario"

(Original letters on file)

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