THE GUARDIAN

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"The strongest memory is weaker than the weakest ink."

TUESDAY, MAY 10, 1955

A Memorable Date

May 10th fifteen years ago was a memorable, and perhaps a decisive, date in the history of Britain and, indeed, in that of civilization. It was on that day that Mr. Neville Chamberlain resigned as Prime Minister of Great Britain and was succeeded by Mr. Winston Churchill, as he was then. It would be useless now to reflect on what might or might not have happened had the change not taken place when it did; but there seems to be general agreement that the change marked the beginning of a new and more vigorous approach to the problems that confronted the British people who, at the time,—aided by such help as the rest of the Commonwealth was able to give—stood virtually alone in defending the ramparts of freedom; waiting, as Mr. Churchill later described it, "till those who had been half blind were half ready."

As for Mr. Chamberlain, much controversy has centered round his leadership before and after the outbreak of war. It will probably be many years before the historians will find a proper appraisal of his life and work possible; meanwhile, most of his official contemporaries, including Sir Winston himself, appear to agree that his failures, whatever they were, were the result not so much of personal inadequacy in the face of grave issues as of the apathy and misjudgments which prior to 1939 had characterized the political thinking of the country, and especially of the Conservative Party of which he was the head. In any case, it is to be noted that the new Prime Minister kept Mr. Chamberlain in his Government and War Cabinet until continuing illness forced the former leader to retire. In no place in Sir Winston's memoirs is there one word of censure or reproach concerning Mr. Chamberlain; on the contrary, there is much to show that the war time leader had great respect for his predecessor's counsel and help in many difficult situations, and above all, for his personal integrity. And when Mr. Chamberlain passed away the Prime Minister took time out in the House of Commons to pay him high tribute, in the course of which he said this:

"The only guide to a man is his conscience; the only shield to his memory is the rectitude and sincerity of his actions. It is very imprudent to walk through life without this shield, because we are so often mocked by the failure of our hopes and the upsetting of our calculations; but with this shield, however the fates may play, we march always in the ranks of honour.

"Whatever else history may say or not say about these terrible, tremendous years, we can be sure that Neville Chamberlain acted with perfect sincerity according to his lights and strove to the utmost of his capacity and authority, which were powerful, to save the world from the awful, devastating struggle in which we are now engaged. He was, like his father and his brother Austen before him, a famous member of the House of Commons, and we here assembled this morning, members of all parties, without a single exception, feel that we do ourselves and our country honour in saluting the memory of one whom Disraeli would have called 'an English worthy'."

Water Problems

A recent issue of the New York Times carried an interesting report of a meeting of scientists from many countries for the discussion of water problems in the arid areas of the world which, from some cause or other, appear to be getting bigger year by year. Following are some of the principal findings recorded:

Long before white settlers came to Arizona and New Mexico the native Indians in both regions had developed an irrigation system much more satisfactory for the raising of crops than anything now being done by scientific methods. An engineer from Tunisia, another arid region, told how water has recently been discovered in old Roman ruins. Some of these wells were as deep as 300 feet and they are still usable, once the debris of centuries has been cleaned away. In the United States alone parasitic plants make away with as much as 35 million acre-feet of water a year, approximately half as much as that used for irrigation purposes. Turning salt water into fresh is still an expensive operation; but a new system now being tried is expected to cut costs considerably, perhaps down to as low as $1000 per million gallons. An expert on the desert regions of Asia and Africa brought a fresh approach to an old problem by suggesting that in countries where various species of rodents, which live on vegetation, are plentiful, these animals should be used to augment the food supply. Most of these species, he maintained, provide healthful and nutritious food; but, except for the rabbit and squirrel, they have never been made use of on a large scale. Prejudice, no doubt!

Those who are used to all the water they want when they want it, just by turning a tap, will be surprised to learn that about half of the earth's surface is in a more or less arid condition, and that more than half the world's population lack adequate water supply. Many millions are actually thirsty most of the time.

Plight Of The Universities

We are now approaching the period of commencement exercises for our colleges and universities across Canada. It is generally conceded that our future as a nation depends upon our people being sufficiently well educated to be in the forefront of world progress, industrially and otherwise, and able to cope with its crowding complexities. Most people fully recognize that our institutions of higher learning must expand with a growing population, and therefore will have to expand particularly fast in the next fifteen years, as the number of people of university age jumps abnormally. And the needs of quality as well as of quantity are also pretty generally understood. What, then, are we doing to meet this challenge educationally?

Very little, it would seem, if the statements of Professor Corry, of Queen's University, and one of Canada's outstanding educationists, are to be credited. In a recent address in Winnipeg Professor Corry pointed out that a generation ago, just before the depression, the average expenditure of Canadian universities was $483 per student. That was in 1928. In 1953 the number of dollars was far greater; but in dollars of the same value as 1928 they would have been only $514 per student. In real terms, the cost of university education per student rose by only 5 per cent. But the average Canadian is now 60 per cent better off than was the average Canadian in 1928. That is the improvement in what the economists call real income per capita. We are a much richer nation than we were twenty-five years ago, but we have allowed our institutions of higher learning to lag lamentably behind. We cannot do so indefinitely, if we are to retain even the material advantages of our status as a nation.

EDITORIAL NOTES

For the first three months of this year this country's exports amounted to approximately $966 1/2 million, up 11.6% from the same period a year ago. At the same time imports amounted to $1 billion, 21 million, a 10.3% increase over last year's figures.

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According to a report issued by a United States Government office, Western exports to Soviet Russia and her satellites last year amounted to about $1¼ billion, the highest volume since 1949. Even so, it is a mere trickle in international trade. Including Red China, free world exports to all Communist countries came to only about 2% of the total world volume.

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The National Department of Health and Welfare wants to know what civil servants eat for breakfast. "One wonders", says the Ottawa Journal, "how far this avuncular display of interest in the private lives of the Government's employees will go. What about, for instance, the percentage of nightgowns to pyjamas—and the number who wear neither!"

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In order to minimize the seriousness of reduced expenditures for defense, the United States Republican Policy Committee has issued a 31 page booklet entitled "National Defense under the Republican Administration today and tomorrow." The Democrats are charging that the publication, in giving information on new weapons, represents a breach of security regulations. One very prominent Republican—the President—seems to agree with them. He called it a blunder.

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It is a relief to all our citizens to know, on the authority of National Health Minister Martin, that Canada has not had a single unfavorable reaction reported among the 800,000 of its children inoculated with Salk polio vaccine. The nation-wide immunization program is therefore being continued, despite a United States decision to hold up its vaccinations. Mr. Martin pointed out that all vaccine being used in Canada's joint federal-provincial program is produced at Connaught laboratories, Toronto, and is submitted to extensive testing, first at Connaught and a second time at the federal laboratory of hygiene

It's Confusin'

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.

3rd KINGS NOMINATION

Sir,—During the last session of the Legislature an erroneous impression may have been created through remarks made by Premier Matheson and Hon. Mr. Clark concerning the nomination in our District.

Here are the facts. Mr. Hunter had been our candidate for a number of elections. He was elected on three occasions, and lost out by only twelve votes in the "mud election" four years ago when we were unable to get a number of our voters to the polls. No district could be prouder than we are to have a man of his calibre representing us, either in or out of the Lsgislature. He was respected and admired by all — regardless of politics.

At our executive meeting last fall it was decided that our convention would be held in late October or early November. A delegation was appointed to wait on the two previous candidates to request them to re-offer. Mr. J. A. MacDonald was contacted and he accepted. At the time, Mr. Hunter informed the delegation that, due to his health and the increasing responsibilities as president of the expanding Prince Edward Island Plowing Match Association added to his normal business duties ,he regretted that he would not be able to offer. He stated that he would, of course, be giving his wholehearted support to any candidate for the party. Shortly after that, as is well known by all in this area, he went to hospital, where he underwent two serious operations which involved hospitalization over a period of many weeks.

In Mr. Hunter's place we were able to have Mr. Walter R. Shaw, former deputy Minister of Agriculture, consent to our unanimous invitation to accept nomination. In view of the lack of authoritative agricultural representation in the Legislature, this District is most fortunate in securing his services. Mr. MacDonald has already given outstanding public service, and two years ago received the largest majority accorded any candidate in this district for many years.

This matter was discussed at our recent executive meeting, and we feel that in all fairness to Mr. Hunter, who is working very diligently for us, and to Mr. MacDonald the true facts as given above should be published.

I am, Sir, etc.,
DOUGLAS McGOWAN
President, Progressive Conservative Association of Third Kings.

SIGNS OF DANGER

Sir,—In "Widening Educational Horizons" (The Guardian April 18) a big splurge was made about the technique of fitting the pupil into a group. The calibre of the group is immaterial. It seems that the group has a right to do whatever it pleases, to follow its group spirit.

In this connection Dr. Neatby says, in her book, "A Temperate Dispute"; "Today there are signs of danger. There are signs that the conception of the group may be losing the one thing that gives it virtue and even life in a free society . . . The difference between the group and the herd is the measure of our humanity . . . The essence of Western freedom, the whole of Western civilization resides in the conception of the human person, in society, sustained, nourished, formed by society, and yet capable of becoming and remaining an individual."

The wisdom diffused relative to the operation of the sociometric test stems from that sinecural creation of progressivism known as "Guidance". More can be had upon application to that department. There is plenty of it kept in cold storage there. Perhaps you would like to know where it came from in the first place? It originated in the mind of some unidentified "expert" in a day-dream.

In the LaZerte Report published in "Widening Educational Horizons", May 2, we read this [illegible] statement: "For this generation at least the teacher's job is less that of concentrating on the three R's than in developing the proper knowledge, attitudes and behaviour in social relationships—the basis of true Christian democracy." It is neither Christian, nor democratic. The tendency to minimize the importance of the three R's is based on Dewey's philosophy of education, and Dewey was an atheist. As to democracy, every crackpot theory expounded in and out of the academic world is labelled "democratic". Dr. Neatby speaks of the "almost hysterical assertion of 'democratic' as a suitable epithet for everything that it seems good to educators to do."

"Democracy" is the most misused word in the world today, both on this and the other side of the Iron Curtain. Nobody defines it, but everybody is bandying it about. If you live and breathe and sing and dream; if the sun shines and the wheat grows; if the rivers flow and the wind blows, there is only one explanation for all that: Democracy! Communists shriek it with hysterical tremolos in their voices as they exert themselves frantically to enthrone it in the place of God. It has become the fetish of modern times.

In its December 29, 1952 issue "Life" said editorially: "In America, other 'spurious remedies' for the absence of God from an intellectual life may be discerned or feared. One is the idolization of democracy itself."

"Attitudes" is another one of the glittering vacuities progressivists are fond of throwing out to bamboozle the public. Picture to yourself the kind of society we would have after the virtual by-passing of the three R's for a whole generation. Of course that would be done in the name of democracy too. On that point also Miss Neatby has commented. She said not long ago: "Education for democracy (so-called) is not teaching critical thinking. It is encouraging a dislike of hard work and a readiness to accept indoctrination."

Imagine what the head of a business establishment would say to an applicant for a job who would declare: "I cannot read, nor write, nor figure, but I have all the 'attitudes' necessary for democratic living." No employer would be impressed by such ethereal qualifications as "attitudes."

If less money was spent in keeping side-show "specialists" in circulation, it might be possible to raise our teachers' salaries to a decent level at least.

I am, Sir, etc.,
W. J. ENRIGHT

Paris Pacts In Force

By W. N. Ewer
United Kingdom Information Office

On Thursday, May 5, the Paris Agreements signed last October came into force when the signatories "deposited instruments of ratificaton" in the manner provided. Almost exactly ten years from the end of the war, Western Germany became a free and independent republic; and became at the same time a member of N. A. T. O. and of the newly created Western European Union. After a long and troubled period, the promise made by the British, French and American foreign ministers in the autumn of 1950 had been fulfilled.

What, one asks, will be the effect on relations between the "Western Powers" and the Soviet Union? Will ratification improve or for the moment destroy such chance as there may be of four-power talks both on Germany and on even wider issues? The policy of the three powers has been made quite plain during the past months. They could not agree to four-power talks before ratification: but once the Paris Agreements were in force, then, so far as they were concerned, the door would be wide open. Sir Anthony Eden has stressed the point again and again.

Why, then, since they desire negotiations, did the three powers decline all suggestion of a four-power conference before ratification? The reason was strictly a practical one. The Berlin Conference on January and February 1954 had been a barren failure. And one reason — it was very clear to those who watched it — was that Mr. Molotov's purpose throughout was to prevent, or delay ratification of the E. D. C. Treaty (predecessor of the present Paris Agreements). As the year went on, it became even more clear that this objective was dominating all Soviet approach to European questions, even more clear that if the four ministers were to meet again, Mr. Molotov would demand the scrapping of the Western Treaties as a precondition for anything else. And since it would be a quite unacceptable condition, there could be no useful purpose in holding a conference which would meet deadlock from its opening hours.

SERIOUS INTENTIONS

But that difficulty is now out of the way. The Paris Agreements are in force. The Soviet Government can no longer use a four-power meeting as an opportunity for trying to prevent something which is now an accomplished fact. So there is at any rate — as there was not until now — a possibility that a conference might be fruitful and helpful. The three powers are ready to make the attempt. They have already set their experts at work on a preparatory study of questions which would probably come up for discussion. That is evidence of the seriousness of their intentions.

On March 27, Marshal Bulganin, the Soviet Premier, made the remarkable statement that he took "a positive attitude" towards President Eisenhower's wish for a four-power conference. The Soviet radio commented that "the Soviet Union has never declared that east-west talks would be impossible after ratification of the Paris Agreements." And at a reception on April 23, the Marshal repeated that he was in favour of "a conference at the summit", adding jestingly "ask Eisenhower and Eden about the date."

Now that does not mean that all difficulties that might stand in the way of a conference or of "a meeting at the summit" are over; still less that one can assume that whether a conference or a meeting would succeed. Experiences of the past eight years have been a warning against easy optimism.

But it does, I think, mean that forebodings that ratification might prevent negotiation have been definitely proved wrong; and that those of us who felt sure that the realism of the Soviet leaders would rapidly adjust policy to the new realities were right.

It may prove now that at last ratification is no longer an issue that can be affected but a fact that must be accepted, "a new vista will open up" in which at least there is a chance of negotiations without the certainty that they would be wrecked at the start by Soviet demands for the scrapping of the agreements.

Restoring St. Paul's

(London Correspondent, Ottawa Journal)

Full restoration of St. Paul's Cathedral is now within sight. The work began in 1940 almost immediately after two direct bomb hits had devastated the North Transept and damaged the Chancel; if the work had not been taken in hand at once the roof might have collapsed.

Ceilings which suffered from blast are now being restored and the new ceiling of the crypt has just been completed. The installation of an expensive amplification system is nearly finished.

Work that remains to be done includes the rewiring of the entire cathedral. The electrical system is more than 50 years old and is becoming dangerous.

Chairs, music, prayer-books, all need to be renewed and parts of the cathedral must be cleaned. The restoration of the Chapter House gutted by fire in 1940, is expected to begin early this Summer. It will have the same appearance as in Wren's time.

A more distant undertaking is the building of a new choir school for St. Paul's. The present school in Carter Lane has to be demolished as the lane is to be widened. The new school may be built at the east end of the cathedral, where the bombed church of St. Augustine stands.

The Cathedral restoration Fund is already more than half-way towards its target of £400,000; contributions have come from many parts of the Commonwealth.

THIEVES GET $16,000

TORONTO (CP)—Police said the Ukrainian Credit Union offices were looted of $16,000 in cash, bonds and cheques, during the weekend by safecrackers who may have mingled with a Saturday afternoon wedding party to case their job.

Medically Speaking

Herman N. Bundesen, M. D.

ULCERS THRIVE ON WORRY

Don't worry about your ulcer? Worry is likely to make it worse.

Emotional stress of any kind is bad for an ulcer patient. If you have an ulcer, you've got to calm down, take it easy; don't overwork and don't become unduly disturbed or excited.

Excessive secretion of hydrochloric acid in your stomach invariably accompanies a case of peptic uplcers.

When You Eat

Increased secretion of acid, of course, naturally occurs when you eat. The secretion of this corrosive gastric juice stops after the food has left the stomach and there is nothing left for the pepsin-acid to work on.

However, the gastric function is not stepped up by eating alone. The mere smell or taste of food, or even a discussion about goodies, will accelerate the process.

Troublesome situations in life can also boost gastric function.

Emotional Upsets

Dr. Stewart Wolf, head of the department of medicine at the University of Oklahoma School of Medicine, reports that worry and anxiety can produce a continuous increase in the gastric function. In such cases, the stomach will pour out corrosive gastric juices even when empty of food. Furthermore, he points out, the stomach of an ulcer patient may pour out ten times as much corrosive gastric juice as the stomach of a normal person.

After studying ulcer patients over a period of several years, he found, "No stimulus is as potent in accelerating gastric function as discussing with a patient some troublesome, meaningful, threatening life-situation."

He cites several instances to prove his point and makes a suggestion that I am passing on to you.

If You Have a Problem

Confide in your doctor. If you're worried about something, tell him. Don't expect him to cure your ulcer permanently if you are hiding some emotional disturbance which might be a contributing factor.

QUESTION AND ANSWER

B. M. H.: Could a kidney disorder cause my face to swell while lying down: or could nerves do it?

Answer: Swelling in the face might be due to a kidney disturbance. It may also come from nervous disorders. An examination by your physician is necessary to determine the exact cause.

The Poet's Corner

A GREAT TIME

Sweet Chance, that led my steps abroad,
Beyond the town where wild flowers grow—
A rainbow and a cuckoo, Lord!
How rich and great the times are now!
Know, all ye sheep
And cows that keep
On staring that I stand so long
In grass that's wet from heavy rain—
A rainbow and a cuckoo's song
May never come together again;
May never come
This side the tomb.

—W. H. Davies.

The Age Old Story

If haply they might feel after him, and find him, though he be not far from every one of us: for in him we live, and move, and have our being; as certain also of your own poets have said, For we are also his offspring.

Belated Post Mortem

Daniel Deluce
(Associated Press)

Ten years ago the shooting stopped in Germany; the war was over, but arguments would go on for years about how it was fought. From the perspective of a decade, how does it look today? Did the Allies make grave mistakes? Could the war have been ended sooner?

Some of the leaders of Hitler's Wehrmacht say yes. And they single out one thing which, they believe, gravely delayed Allied victory in Europe. It was the pronouncement issued at the Casablanca conference in 1943: "unconditional surrender."

The demand was made in remarks to the press by President Roosevelt Jan. 24, 1943. Prime Minister Churchill was present.

Five former high German officers, now prominent in civilian life in the Bonn republic, were asked by The Associated Press, to reply to this question.

"In your opinion, did the Allies make blunders which prolonged the war, and if they had followed some different course of action, could they have brought about the earlier surrender of the Reich?"

Replies came from:

Field Marshal Albert Kesselring, president of the Stahlhelm, a veterans organization, and last commander-in-chief in the west. Guenther Blumethitt a military historian, who was chief of staff in the west in 1944.

Gen. Hasso von Manteuffel, now a Free Democrat deputy in Parliament, who commanded the 5th Panzer Army in the Battle of the Bulge.

Vice-Admiral Helmuth Heye, now a Christian Democrat deputy in Parliament, who commanded one-man torpedoes, frogmen and all small combat units in the navy.

Col.-Gen. Hans Juergen von Arnim, commander of German forces in Tunisia in 1948.

MISSED CHANCE IN BALKANS

Next to "unconditional surrender," these ex-commanders listed the Allied decision to invade southern France instead of the Balkans as a factor lengthening the war. All regard the Normandy landings in retrospect as a military masterpiece without a major flaw.

Their replies included these views:

Kesselring: "After Stalingrad, or at latest after the fall of Tunis (May, 1943), it was apparent that German victory could not be counted on. Wise, far - sighted Western policy—if Casablanca had not stood in the way — could have worked for a peace settlement that would not cripple future progress, and perhaps could have shortened the war one to two years.

"In no case should the southern French landings have been carried out after the Normandy invasion had started. An attack through the Balkans, from northern Italy, into the area east of Vienna would have stopped the Russian advance outside of occidental terrain. With this and a speedup of the Allied advance in the west, the war definitely could have been ended in 1944."

STRATEGIC MISTAKE

Blumenthitt: "Had the Anglo-American armies been able to mount a new combined offensive at the beginning of September, 1944, German defence west of the Rhine would have been broken down completely."

Manteuffel: "The big strategic mistake in my opinion, was that the Allies did not land in the Balkans. They would have encountered less resistance than even in southern France.

"The halt of the Western armies at the Elbe in 1945 was a politico-military mistake, which left Berlin, the capital, to be captured by the Russians, and did not take advantage of the opportunity to run over weak forces on the Elbe and further shorten the war."

Heye: "I regard the Allied invasion of southern France as a decision of extraordinary importance, which in its consequences can certainly be regarded as a missed opportunity.

"Just as Churchill proposed in the First World War to break the ring of central powers at one of their weakest links, namely the Dardanelles, I believe, in studying the Second World War, that Churchill was on the right track, not only politically but also militarily, in proposing the invasion of southeastern Europe."

Von Arnim said the North African campaign might have been shortened by months had the Allies pursued different strategy:

"After Rommel, contrary to expectations, was not cut off at El Alamein a push by, say two Allied divisions, from Tebessa directly to the Tunisian coast would have separated the two Axis armies in Africa. Rommel would have run out of supplies in six days and been forced to surrender."

Lost Continent

(Associated Press)

The lost continent of Atlantic has fired man's imagination for centuries.

Ancient Greek legends told of a highly-civilized people living on a western land named Atlantis. An ideal political state flourished there. Then came a mighty disaster and Atlantis disappeared.

Was the legend true? Did Atlantis exist?

After 40 years of study, Italian archaeologist Constantino Cattoi says the answer is yes.

Cattoi visualizes Atlantis as originally having been a giant belt of land stretching from Asia to Central America. Gradually parts of the land disappeared beneath the sea until three great bodies remained.

These he identifies as: Lemuria linking India and Africa; Atlantis, covering most of the north-central Atlantic ocean, with an arm called Tyrhennia reaching eastward to Italy; and Mu, a giant Pacific land body reaching from the Hawaiian islands as far south as the Society islands and as far west as the Carolines and Marianna islands.

That much must be speculation," Cattoi said in an interview. "It is patched together from legends of many countries—the Aztecs, the ancient Egyptians, the Greeks."

What force destroyed Atlantis? Plato spoke of earthquakes. Cattoi tells of legends which indicate a series of disasters. He thinks there may possibly be a connection between these stories and the flood of 40 days described in the bible.

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