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Reassuring

For some months there has been some uneasiness among the friends and allies of the United States that that country's commitments and semi-commitments to Chiang Kai Shek on Formosa might lead, unnecessarily, to all out war with Communist China and, perhaps, with Soviet Russia.

The latest reports from Washington are more reassuring; and they show that the official policy of the President is gradually taking shape, and in a much more encouraging direction than it appeared to be going a few months back.

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Tusitala

When Robert Louis Stevenson sailed on April 28, 1888, from San Francisco for the South Seas it was on a brief pleasure excursion. It turned into a voluntary exile prolonged until the hour of his death.

He took up his abode at Vaillima, in a small wooden building 500 feet above the sea. The natives gave him the name Tusitala. There he wrote some of his finest romances, and was dictating that great unfinished work, "Weir of Hermiston", on the day he died, Dec. 3, 1894, from a stroke of apoplexy.

These incidents are recalled by an interesting news item from New Zealand. Two of Samoa's ranking chiefs, one from each of the large islands, have called for the erection of a Robert Louis Stevenson museum in Apia, the western Samoan capital.

Chief Manigiamanu, "highest orator of Vaimgauga", traditional political district enclosing all Apia, including Vaillima and the old native capital Mulinu'u, argues that a room should be reserved in Government House for a Stevenson museum.

Italy. Our respect for him is as high as the place where our forefathers buried him high on Mount Vaea. Some Samoans think that Vaillima should be the site for such a museum, but I have a different idea. It should be erected on the site of the old chiefs' house in Apia, and if the present chiefs are agreeable then a big native house would be the most proper shelter for housing Tusitala's things.

Sunlight Into Food

An achievement of far-reaching importance was announced at the recent annual meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. Dr. Daniel I. Armon, professor of plant physiology at the University of California, reported that he and his associates had, for the first time in history, used sunlight to create sugar and starch out of carbon dioxide and water, outside the living cells of green plants.

This may not be as world-shattering as the invention of the cobalt bomb, comments an exchange, but it is being hailed as one of the most important milestones in man's attempt to control his environment. We are dependent for all our food on the process known as photosynthesis; that is, the process by which plants harness the energy in sunlight and use it to convert the water and chemicals they draw from the soil and the carbon dioxide they take from the air into sugars, fats and proteins—the primary components of man's food.

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EDITORIAL NOTES

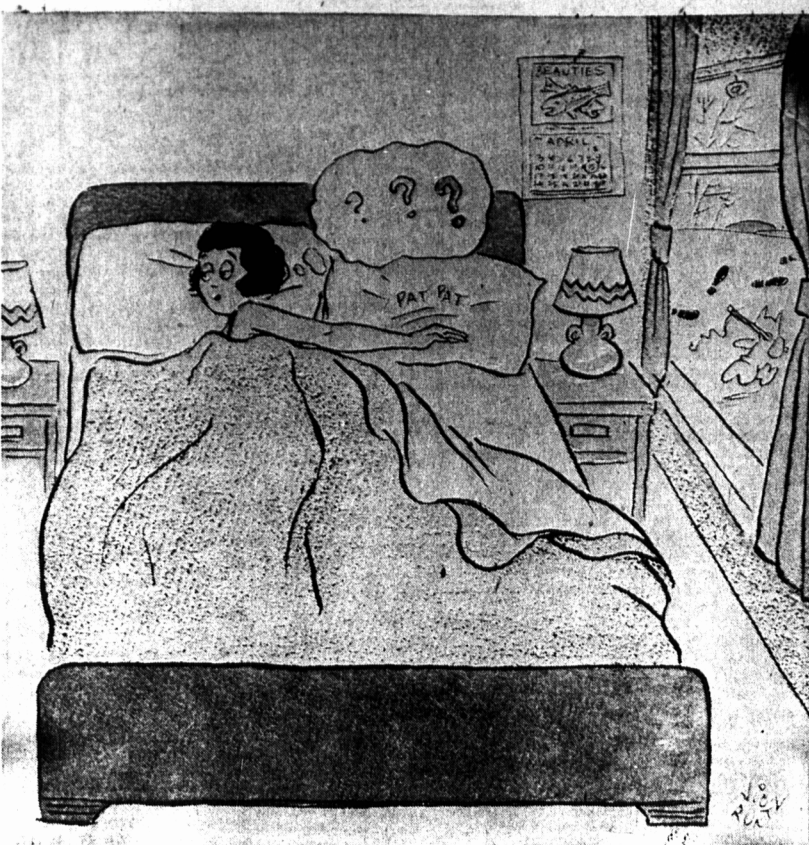
Today is the 200th anniversary of the publication of Samuel Johnson's "Dictionary of the English Language." Though not the first English dictionary, it far surpassed its predecessors and was a monumental achievement, performed almost single-handedly.

Most people are under the impression that rice is the staple food of all Chinese. The National Geographic Society in a recent report says that that is a false notion. It applies only to parts of Southern and Central China. In North China, which is the most densely populated area, wheat is the main food. Many millions of people see no rice at any time.

Even pigeons, it seems, have a way of making their displeasure known. In a town in Nebraska officials at a Lutheran Church installed a wire device to keep the birds away from the Church tower. Immediately they left and took up more hospitable quarters in the Presbyterian Church a block away.

If Professor Max Wingo of the University of Michigan knows what he is talking about, present day youngsters have a lot to be thankful for. He says that in another twenty-five or thirty years schools will be in session all year round including Sunrises. Furthermore, he believes that society will be the better for the stepped up programmes. That may be; but the unlucky pupils who will have to put up with it are not likely to feel that way about it.

Perhaps seasickness, like polio, will soon become a thing of the past. At any rate, hard on the heels of the announced success of the new polio vaccine comes the news that roll stabilizers have been tried out successfully on the "Queen Elizabeth." Fitted with this new gadget, the great liner remained "steady as a rock" in a strong mid-Atlantic storm.



Comes The Dawn

Alas, Poor Literature! Bruce Hutchison in the Winnipeg Free Press

It was not to be expected in this enlightened age that the old vice of reading would be denied forever the improvements of modern science. Having improved everything else to the point of perfection, science now turns its attention to the written word and finds it in a shocking backward and antiquated condition.

Caribbean Federation By Ron Evans Canadian Press, London

Eight sun-baked colonies in the sugar-spice islands of the British West Indies are being forged into links for the stout Commonwealth chain.

EVENTUAL AUTONOMY Jamaica, the Leeward Islands, Grenada, St. Vincent, St. Lucia, Dominica, Barbados and Trinidad-Tobago meanwhile are steadily grooming themselves for a place in partnership with Canada and the other members of the British family of nations.

BRITISH AID In place of a cabinet, the main instrument of government will be a 14-member council of state. This will include the prime minister, seven members of the House or Senate, three officials appointed by the governor-general and three senators appointed by the governor-general-in-council.

ECONOMIC NECESSARY Some leaders in Trinidad and Tobago, both relatively prosper-

The Age Old Story He that doeth truth cometh in the light, that his deeds may be made manifest, that they are wrought in God.

streamline it, Hamlet need only ask himself: "Is life worth living? Obviously not. But what about dying? That might be worse. So we can't make up our minds to live or die. Too bad."

QUESTION AND ANSWER E. B.: Can a glaucoma operation restore my sight? Answer: Glaucoma is not incurable. Operations frequently produce a cure.

FINAL STEPS First suggestion that the islands seriously consider the subject of a British Caribbean federation was offered in 1945 by the late Oliver Stanley, then colonial secretary.

MIGRATION PROBLEM The colonies must import much of their food, textiles and other goods from dollar countries and the cost of living is high. Living conditions are generally depressed.

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Medically Speaking

Herman N. Sundesen, M.D. A SKIN INFLAMMATION THAT'S VERY CONTAGIOUS

Parents probably are more familiar with the results of impetigo contagiosa than they are with the name. This is a skin inflammation and a very contagious one. It's caused by staphylococci and streptococci pus-forming germs and it usually strikes children.

Rules of Hygiene Now there are some general rules of hygiene to follow as well as specific treatment. Don't share a towel or wash cloth with anyone infected with impetigo contagiosa. Change the patient's pillowcase every day. Launder them separately. Don't put them in a washing machine with other linens.

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NOTES BY THE WAY

The story is told that during a visit to Rome by Foreign Minister Anthony Eden to see Premier Mussolini, Il Duce, sitting behind a huge desk was showing off its conveniences. Pointing to the push-bottoms, Mussolini said: "When I press the yellow one my colonial minister comes. When I press the green one my foreign secretary enters. And when I press the red one—" here the late Duce paused and juttied his chin like the rock of Gibraltar — "a million men are mobilized".

WORM GOOD TO EAT SAN FRANCISCO, (AP)—Biologists have discovered a worm good to eat and chock-full of vitamins. It is the palolo, a ring-shaped affair living in the coral reefs of Samoa, Fiji and other tropical Pacific islands.

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