The Guardian

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Uninspiring

The U.S. Secretary of State, Mr. Dulles, was quoted this week as saying that the Soviet Union "is ahead of the United States in the missiles fields in some respects, but he is confident the United States can catch up." It is to be hoped that he has more basis for his confidence than his comments would indicate. In recent weeks there have been successful test firings of the first stage of the American Vanguard satellite launching rocket and of certain ballistic missile assemblies. The Farside rocket, after several failures, has also been successfully launched at an altitude of over 3,000 miles. But encouraging as these developments are, they cannot be compared with the Soviet success in integrating its missile-satellite program.

One would have more confidence in Mr. Dulles' opinions if he were to face facts honestly, especially the unpleasant ones. He could have told the press conference that the advent of Sputnik II has given added urgency to efforts to strengthen the North Atlantic Alliance, to forge more solid ties with Britain, and to increase the free exchange of natural science data and know-how with Britain and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization powers. The December session of the NATO council in Paris, which President Eisenhower will attend, looms as more important than ever and the U.S. State Secretary could have emphasized this fact in words that would have brought encouragement to free nations everywhere. Only strong leadership can retrieve the balance against us today, and as we weigh Mr. Dulles' ineptitudes against the challenge of these jolting times we think regretfully of what a wartime Winston Churchill would be saying in his place.

Rare Qualifications

The news that Governor General Massey has been asked to continue in office for at least another year will, we imagine, be welcomed by most Canadians.

Mr. Massey has made an excellent representative of the Queen. He has many intellectual gifts, a thorough knowledge of parliamentary procedures, a good understanding of Canadian life in all its aspects and, withal, a dignity and charm which go well with his exalted position. He is one of those relatively rare souls who can "walk with kings nor lose the common touch." And all these gifts and talents he has devoted to the service of his Sovereign and of the Canadian people, unstintingly.

Mr. Massey's extension of tenure will make many Canadians wonder why he should not be invited to stay on indefinitely—so long, that is, as he is willing to bear the responsibility and his health remains good. What particular need is there for making a new appointment every five or six years? The fact that that has been the custom does not necessarily mean that it has any special merit. A tradition of this nature is, of course, not to be disregarded lightly. But it is not sacrosanct, and there are times when it may be wise to let a well considered precedent take its place. Perhaps this is one of those times.

Of Interest To Canada

The best hope—and perhaps the only one—for Canada and other countries which are anxious for their exports to the United States to be given fair tariff treatment is that, so far, the final decision on any particular recommendation of the Tariff Commission rests with the President who has shown on several occasions that he is not in favour of high protective duties. He holds this power of discretion, however, with Congressional approval. It is not one of his constitutional prerogatives. Whether he will be able to hold it much longer is a question.

It seems that the President has been turning down recommendations for higher tariffs too often to please some influential Congressmen. The other day Senator Flanders of Vermont, a member of the Senate Finance Committee, indicated that the President's decision on a case now pending might "raise the question whether a return to acts of Congress in the tariff field is called for." The case concerns—of all things—clothespins, for which American manufacturers are asking a higher import duty. Mr. Flanders' statement would seem to imply that if the request is not granted—the Tariff Commission has already recommended it—protectionist forces in the Senate might be successful in their efforts to take tariff considerations out of the President's hands.

Should this come to pass, Canada's export trade to the United States would almost certainly be faced with new restrictions; for neither the Tariff Commission nor Congress as a whole is inclined to be liberal on the tariff question.

Picking Potatoes

This Island is not the only place where farmers are divided in their opinions regarding the value of a potato marketing board. According to a report from London, a somewhat similar situation exists in England. There, a national board markets the potatoes, attends to improving the quality, sets production quotas, establishes prices and even provides extra labour for harvesting. At least, these are its official functions. But lately the farmers have been complaining that the board doesn't do any of these things properly. A specific complaint is that the board has been lax in finding volunteers to aid in the harvesting.

As is customary when any dispute is under way, the newspapers have been swamped with "letters to the editor," most of them chiding the board for its failures, a few saying a kind word for the officials. The London Daily Express, which is never hesitant about suggesting solutions for problems which come to its attention—and what problem doesn't?—thought that the solution to the labour shortage was to be found in the personnel of the board itself. "There are 600 persons working for the marketing board," it stated editorially. "Let them put down their pens and get out and pick up potatoes."

The report does not say how the 600 reacted to the suggestion. But it isn't likely that they thought too highly of it.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Evidently, the Asian flu bug is not satisfied with hitting an area once. In Japan, where last Spring 18 million persons were stricken, the disease has again reached epidemic status.

* * *

A city in Indiana has repealed a law which made it unlawful for anyone to board a public conveyance within four hours after eating garlic. That's one legislative action which can scarcely be justified by consideration of the public interest.

* * *

A professor of physiology is studying house flies in an attempt to find out why some live longer than others. One explanation is that the long-lived ones are more agile and therefore less likely to come under the destructive force of the swatter.

* * *

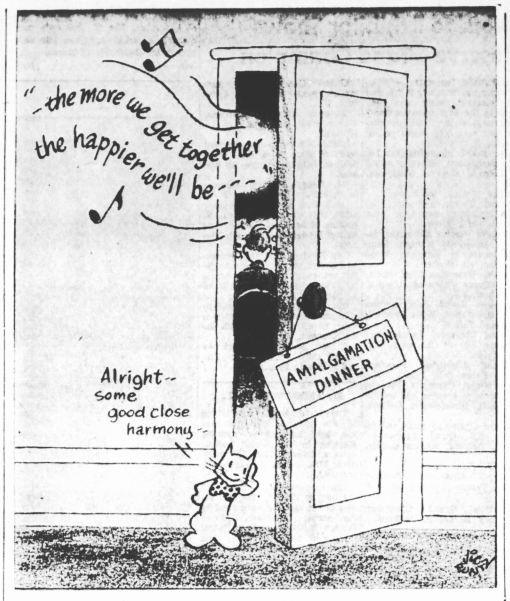
The head of the Communist Party in Poland says that the organization is much too big and should be slashed to half its present size. Reports would seem to indicate that a majority of the citizens would be just as well pleased if the party were abolished completely. They certainly would be much better off.

* * *

Segregation leaders in the South have been claiming that if the matter were put to a vote in any Southern community, integration in the schools would be opposed almost unanimously by white citizens. That it was a false claim was proved in the town of Pleasanton, Texas, last week when, under a local option law, the citizens voted for integration by a majority of 4 to 1.

* * *

A university laboratory and an insurance company in the United States have developed a model of what they call a "safe" car. Now, if another group of experts would concentrate on developing safe drivers, a real step forward in highway safety would be under way. In many cases, perhaps in most, it isn't the car that's at fault.



THEME SONG

AT U. N. ASSEMBLY

Increasing Tension

By Heath Macquarrie, M.P.

While the House of Commons gives its attention to important matters such as cash advances for Western farmers and increased old age security payments the United Nations debates the situation in the Middle East. Although there is much argument in the Chamber at Ottawa there is wide agreement on the general principles of the bills up for consideration. This is not the case at New York where disagreements are deep and sustained.

The vote on second reading of the Cash Advances Bill revealed how widespread was the support for the measure — only six members voted nay and the leaders of all parties supported it.

SHARPER DISAGREEMENT

At the United Nations there seems to be sharper disagreement than in the earlier days of the General Assembly session. One observer stated recently that the cold war diplomacy had returned to the sessions of the world organization. Of course the issues are becoming sharper and the crisis more grave. Russia which had for generations tried to penetrate the Middle East now appears to be getting a foothold in this vulnerable and explosive area. The lines of defence against Soviet penetration are lacking in strength and solidity. The Baghdad pact includes Iraq, Turkey, Iran and Pakistan but other strategic Arab states are outside.

Of all the countries in the Middle East Israel and Turkey are most solidly in Western camp. The first of these has been feeling the hostility of its neighbors ever since the time of its creation Now Turkey, a member of the Baghdad pact and one of our NATO allies, is under threat from Syria and her Soviet friend. The dangers of border incidents are still serious and the risks from increased Russian influence in the Middle East cannot be overemphasized.

RUSSIAN AGGRESSIVES

At various times since the end of the Second World War we have seen bursts of Russian aggressiveness followed by periods of relative quiet. The Berlin blockade, the Communist activity in Northern Greece, the invasion of South Korea, these have been some of the more recent examples of Communist expansion. Earlier, of course, the push into the present satellite states marked the form of Kremlin aggression. In the shadow of the powerful Red Army the states of Eastern Europe fell into the Soviet orbit and their freedom vanished.

Against this earlier burst of Russian expansion the West took little or no action. But in Greece the West stood for the Truman Doctrine. During the Berlin Blockade the three Western powers showed stern determination not to budge and in the end won the day. In Korea, despite all the setbacks and mistakes, the line was drawn. Thus the borders of the Communist and non-Communist worlds have become more clearly defined through the years.

But in the Middle East things are different. There is a vast area of uncommitted territory and millions of people who are neither pro Russian nor pro American. In this situation diplomacy takes on new forms. The United States, through the Eisenhower Doctrine, tried to guard against Soviet expansion into the area. But the weakness of the Eisenhower doctrine was that it provided for American action only on the request of the country which felt itself endangered. Syria, with a government which has strong Russian sympathies, is not likely to call for the assistance of the military forces of the United States.

Therefore, the backdoor was left open and through this the Soviet Union entered and established a bridgehead in the vital Middle East without having to bring any country under the actual shadow of the Red Army.

NEW SITUATION

Thus we have a new situation which challenges our diplomacy and beyond all of this is the new factor which follows the success of Soviet science. Along with its victory in the Middle East, the Soviet launching of Sputnik puts new questions to the fore and new answers must be found.

An amusing incident occurred in the House the other night when its oldest Member, Rev. Dan Melvor of Fort William, entered briefly into the debate on cash advances to Western farmers. Mr. McIvor is very deaf and has a voice which makes the rafters ring so his observations never pass unnoticed by other Members. Denying the contention that the Western farmer was poor he declared that the last time he was in church in the West he couldn't see a piece of silver on the collection plate for all the $1.00, $2.00 and $5.00 bills.

Someone in the gallery, apparently in sympathy with Mr. McIvor's views, burst into applause. Since the rule of silence must be strictly observed by visitors in the gallery this enthusiastic gentleman was promptly escorted out by one of the guards. On the floor of the House no one appeared to share Mr. McIvor's view on the great prosperity of the Western farmer and the Cash Advance Bill was passed.

Volcanic Islands

National Geographic Is'ands

10 violent explosions rocked the Atlantic Ocean this year. Molten rock shot up from the boiling waters. Black ash and sulphurous fumes whirled thousands of feet into the sky.

The sea retreated. A new island was born in the Azores. Like a baby, the island was born naked—full of pressure.

The other islands in the Azores were born in the same dramatic fashion. They began a bare rock and ash. But gradually they became richly clothed with orchards and vineyards, houses and monuments.

The birth of a volcanic island is a reminder that under Earth's cool crust lie molten rocks and pent-up gases, waiting for the moment when they can find a weak spot to break through and form a volcano. These islands also remind mankind that there are mountains under the sea, as well as on dry land. The Azores are peaks of the Mid-Atlantic Ridge, an enormous submarine mountain chain.

DIES IN FEW WEEKS

With volcanoes, the land recovers its losses to the seas that constantly nibble at shores around the world. At times the land's vengeance is short-lived, because the island again subsides into the sea. One island in the Azores disappeared a few weeks after it emerged in 1812. Often, however, the new island becomes a permanent part of the world.

At first a newborn island is lifeless. But birds soon come, bringing seeds. Birds so impressed the Portuguese who explored the Azores in the 15th century that they named the islands after a type of hawk.

The Portuguese found no people living in the Azores. But recent evidence indicates that the ancient carthaginians visited the islands thousands of years ago.

Portuguese, Flemings, Frenchmen and others rapidly settled the islands after their discovery in 1431-2. Portugal acquired possession of the archipelago and made Portuguese its language. The local dialect retains some of the peculiarities of 15th century Portuguese.

The islands are a hub for Atlantic travel. Britain and the United States have built air and sea bases there. Though the total land area is less tha, 1,000 square miles, the Azores are strategically placed in the mid-Atlantic—about 800 miles from Portugal and 1,300 miles from Newfoundland.

Tourists are coming in increasing numbers. They are drawn by the low cost of living, lush vegetation, colorful customs, mineral waters, spectacular scenery, and friendly inhabitants.

Modern automobiles are prominent, but they have not entirely displaced the traditional oxcart. Islanders say jokingly that oxcart is so slow that only the screeching axles reveal whether it is moving or not.

The Poet's Corner

WHITE HORSES

I saw ten white horses
On an emerald hill,
Champing long slender grasses
As horses will;

I saw ten white horses
Waving their white-haired manes,
Cropping bearded grasses
With wind-mixed juicy grains;

I saw ten white horses
Whiter than wax or wool,
Lie down in wild-brush shade,
Resting and beautiful!

I saw ten white horses
Start at a quick sharp sound,
Rear and plunge to the valley
Hardly touching the ground. . .

I saw ten white horses
Longingly look to the hill,
But they stayed deep in the valley
Where even the moon lay still.

—Laurence E. Estes
In the Christian Science Monitor.

OUR YESTERDAYS

From The Guardian Files

TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO
(Nov. 7, 1932)

The total cost of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police in P.E.I. is $5,965 a month, contingent on the amount of cruising of the preventive service vessels during the winter months and costs of repairs, according to a return tabled in the house of commons. At present 34 officers and men comprise the force on P.E.I.

A destructive fire at Ashton-near St. Peters occurred last evening when a large new barn, the property of Mr. James Smith was burned to the ground, and all its contents, the season's crop and the farm machinery were destroyed. The fire, of unknown origin, caused a loss estimated at almost $3,000. There was no insurance on the building.

TEN YEARS AGO
(Nov. 7, 1947)

The matter of the rates on trucks charged on the car ferry was reviewed at the regular meeting of the Summerside Board of Trade last evening. The Secretary was instructed to take the matter up with the Chairman of the Transportation Committee, and to have the schedule of rates at the next meeting of the Board.

On Sunday evening, a joyous service was held in the Murray Harbour Presbyterian Church when the mortgage of the congregation was burned, symbolizing its release from indebtedness which was incurred with the erection of the present church in 1931.

The Age Old Story

He gave them their request; but sent leanness into their souls.

Injections To Curb Smoking

By Herman N. Bundesen, M.D.

Have the smoking habit? Want to break it?

If so, you might be interested in the experiments of a Swedish physician, Dr. B. Ejrup, who used injections of lobeline hydrochloride to help patients give up smoking. He reports good results in over 75 per cent cases. Some 75 per cent of those he treated cut their smoking by 75 per cent or gave it up completely.

CUTS CRAVING

Lobeline, a synthetic drug, seems to cut the craving a person has for tobacco. Some of the patients tested reported cigarettes became tasteless, although there was no disagreeable taste in the mouth or other discomfort while smoking during the length of the treatment.

Only three patients of the 133 who took part in the experiments noticed a slight nausea about an hour after the drug was injected.

Now, why do persons want to give up smoking?

Not for the reason you might think. Dr. Ejrup says that fear of lung cancer was not a common incentive for combating the tobacco habit.

Actually, he found that the chief reasons given by his patients were hygiene and the fact that smoking had become expensive for them.

His reports on the tests indicate to me that giving up smoking might not be as difficult as most of you think. For example, Dr. Ejrup used a placebo (an injection which should have had no effect at all) on other patients to check the reaction of those who got the actual drug. Half of whose who got the placebo only, and none of the drug, reacted favorably and cut their smoking.

Dr. Ejrup concludes that apparently "suggestion" plays an important part in breaking the tobacco habit.

Let me add emphatically that I think it does, too.

QUESTION AND ANSWER

J.L.M.: I believe I am suffering from diabetes. Can you tell me what a good diet would be?

Answer: The treatment of diabetes is mainly through the diet and injections of insulin when the condition cannot be controlled by diet. The kind of diet in any case depends on the severity of the disease.

MAXIMS

Men whose dearest wishes are fixed on objects wholly out of their own power, become in all cases more or less impatient and prone to anger.

NOTES BY THE WAY

An individual dog can be identified by its noseprint. This is just as certain as identifying human beings by fingerprints, according to the Toronto Humane Society. —Toronto Telegram

The British Conservatives call themselves Tories. Winston Churchill uses the word proudly. And so far as we are concerned, what is good enough for him in this respect should be good enough for Canadian Conservatives. —Newfoundland News

Saskatchewan became the first province of the Dominion to complete her portion of the Trans-Canada Highway, construction of which began early in 1950. The project which had been talked about for more than 40 years has now been completed at an overall cost of 27½ million dollars. The Federal Government paid approximately 47½ per cent of the cost and the province carried the remaining 52½ per cent. —Saskatchewan News

Canada's caribou herds have been reduced to about 200,000 animals thanks to inclement weather, a poor calf crop, and losses due to overkilling by hunters. It is hoped to be able to prevent reduction of the herds by more stringent control measures and perhaps by re-writing Indian and Eskimo hunting rights. Some wildlife experts hold that the repeating rifle in the hands of these northern hunters is a chief cause of the losses. — London Free Press

Most people think of vegetarians as diet faddists who become as slim as reeds, but one of the world's leading vegetarians, a Brahmin of India, K. Easwara Iyer, weighs 318 pounds. Of course, he could be a vegetarian like the late George Bernard Shaw, who preached the no-meat doctrine ardently — and drank meat extracts.—Brantford Exposition

Rossini, the brilliant Italian composer, was once presented with a watch of which he was justly proud. Several years afterwards when he showed it to a friend, he was told that he did not know its real value. Impossible protests! Rossini, whereupon the friend, taking the watch, touched a secret spring. The inner case flew open, disclosing a beautiful Rossini himself.—War Cry

The medicine chest's apparently immutable place in the bath room seems to have stemmed from medieval times, when the barber and the first-aid man were one and the same person. The barber required mirrors for his tonsorial work, and he also kept his medicines close by. We have continued this practice. We stow the first-aid equipment behind the shaving mirror. But good sense dictates these days that we keep a well-stocked medicine chest in several places in the home, not just one, so that medicines will be on hand in any emergency. —New York Times

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