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

WEDNESDAY, JAN. 5, 1955.

Mr. Hammarskjold's Mission

Every right thinking citizen of the free world will be thinking of Dag Hammarskjold as he pursues the difficult task assigned to him by the United Nations. There is much more involved than the fate of the eleven airmen and other United Nations personnel now being held by the Chinese Communists, although that is the reason for the unusual journey. Upon the success or failure of Mr. Hammarskjold's mission will depend, to a considerable extent, the continuance or the virtual abandonment of the United Nations Organization as a moral force in international disputes.

It is clear from reports coming out of Peiping that Red China officials are determined to use the occasion for pleading their claim to a seat in the world organization. They might even try to bargain back and forth with the Secretary-General and offer to trade unjustly held prisoners for promises of assistance in their bid for U. N. recognition. Mr. Hammarskjold is, of course, a seasoned diplomat. He can be expected to go as far as, and no farther than, the terms of his commission will allow. Even so, he will need all his wits about him if he is to resist the alternate threats and blandishments which Mr. Chou and his colleagues are certain to use in the course of the conversations, and, at the same time, impress upon them the despicable character of the crime they have perpetrated against international law and order. Meanwhile, it is well to remember that Mr. Hammarskjold is in Peiping not as a suppliant begging favours, but as a messenger from free men demanding redress of a wrong. The softness of the diplomatic language he will use will in no wise detract from the sternness of the demand he has been instructed to make.

Modern Bethlehem

A recent issue of the New York Times carries an interesting article by Robert E. Bedingfield on present day Bethlehem. The birthplace of our Lord is now a small city of approximately 20,000 and is a part of the kingdom of Jordan. Most of the citizens are very poor; many of them have no homes or means of livelihood and wander from place to place seeking food and rest. Taxes, the collection of which by the Roman authorities caused Joseph and Mary to journey to Bethlehem from Nazareth just before Jesus was born, amount to about \$50,000 annually and are based almost wholly on property and rentals. Owners pay 15% of the rents they collect, and tenants 4% of what they pay. Public services are meagre. For example, only about \$1800 is provided for education and less than \$1000 for engineering projects. The police force functions on less than \$3000. The biggest single outlay is for roads—about \$14,000. Most of this is spent on the main street; other thoroughfares are no better than footpaths and are impassable for a goodly part of the year.

There is a small fire department which very rarely has anything to do, since most of the buildings are made of mud-clay. Electric power, such as it is, comes from Jerusalem, five miles away; but it is turned off as often as it is in use. Drinking water is brought by hand from the Pools of Solomon on the Jerusalem road. Most of the buying and selling—chiefly in religious goods made from the native olive wood—is done in road-side stalls. The only big business is the tourist traffic. Local inns are not much better than they were when Joseph and Mary tried unsuccessfully to find lodgings for the night; visitors, especially those from the West, make their headquarters in Jerusalem. The chief attraction, of course, is the Church of the Holy Nativity which, according to tradition, stands on the spot where the Christ-Child, dressed in swaddling clothes, was laid in a manger.

Scandinavian Economic Union

Norway, Sweden and Denmark are taking steps to form an economic union along the lines of the Benelux accord among Belgium, the Netherlands and Luxembourg. Trade ministers of the Scandinavian cabinets have been appointed to a joint committee to study means for setting up a customs-free home market and promoting sales of Scandinavian products abroad. The project brings together in a new way countries that have much in common historically, culturally and geographically. All three are monarchies with strong democratic leanings. For long periods in the past, two and sometimes three of them have been united

under one sovereign. Visiting Norwegians, Swedes and Danes have little difficulty in understanding one another's languages. And all this northern region owes much to the warming influence of the Gulf Stream. Individual differences among the Scandinavian nations are no less striking. Each has its own typical scenery: Norway's fjords and snow-topped mountains; Sweden's lakes and forests; Denmark's grazing meadows.

In world markets, the Scandinavians are noted for such specialties as Danish ham and eggs, Norwegian fish and metals, Swedish steel and wood products. Contemporary designs for furniture and the decorative arts have won Scandinavia a place in world exhibits. Practical and beautiful Swedish glass, Danish silver and the brilliantly colored Norwegian enamel are now found in many homes on this side of the Atlantic as well as in Europe.

Norway, with a huge merchant fleet and whaling industry, buys ships and parts from Sweden and elsewhere, as well as producing some of her own. Sweden is a heavy purchaser of raw fibres for her textile industry. Dairy-minded Denmark, lacking extensive forest resources, orders wood products from her neighbors.

The United Kingdom, West Germany and the United States are leading traders in today's Scandinavian markets. The British long have been the best customers and chief suppliers. But individual variations and economic pressure make the traffic a shifting one. Since the disruptions of World War II, the United States has played an up-and-down role in this commerce, while West Germany has steadily gained as her war-battered industry recovered.

Sound Common Sense

It is well known that when Mr. Harry S. Truman was President of the United States he was on very friendly terms with General Dwight Eisenhower. Now that the latter is President and the former a private citizen there is reason to believe that political differences—such as they are; they never have been serious ones—have not disturbed that cordial relationship in any way. It was not surprising, therefore, to hear that when the President found himself up against the fact of Red China's obstinacy in the case of the imprisonment of the eleven American flyers, he turned to Mr. Truman—or someone did in his behalf—for advice on how to handle the difficult and potentially dangerous problem. After giving the request due consideration, Mr. Truman politely refused to have anything to do with the matter; not, however, because he was not anxious to help the President in any way open to him—just as any good citizen would—but because he felt that this was one problem where too many advisers might do harm rather than good. These are his own words: "I had more eager beavers telling me what to do than any other man in history, and I don't want to join the chorus. It's the President's decision. I want to leave it up to him."

Whichever way one looks at it, Mr. Truman's attitude in this matter seems to have been dictated by sound common sense. Authority and responsibility must go hand in hand; neither can be delegated without weakening the other. Moreover, the President has in his service specialists in every field of politics and diplomacy; they would hardly look with favour on outside advice, especially if it were contrary to their own views. If they advise the President wisely, they will share the credit for the President's final decision; if they do not, they must share the blame.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Week of Prayer.

A publicity campaign to recruit teachers across Canada is outlined in the current issue of Canadian Education, official publication of the Canadian Education Association.

Parliament may be expected to agree unanimously on one thing when it opens at Ottawa on Friday. That is in wishing the Hon. George Drew, Opposition leader, a speedy recovery to his oldtime health and vigour. Meanwhile Hon. Earl Rowe will carry on as acting leader.

Humbert Wolfe, English poet and critic, was born this date 1885, died this date 1940. An Oxford graduate and a civil servant, he became principal assistant secretary to the Ministry of Labour in 1918 and was made C. B. in 1925. His poetic works include: The Unknown Goddess, Humfresque, News of the Devil, The Silver Cat, and The Uncelestial City.

Despite our good record over the holiday season, Chief of Police MacArthur warns that car accidents in Charlottetown for the past three years have been on the upswing, with property damage from collisions last year amounting to over \$111,000. On the other hand, the accident toll on our provincial highways is reported by R. C. M. P. Inspector Nevin to be on the decrease.



Now To Keep It Up!

NOTES BY THE WAY

International trade is never a simple method of doing business. Because for prosperity Canada's economy requires a large volume of export trade circumstances which affect the sale of goods across international borders necessarily concern those interested in business affairs. — Welland Tribune.

A lazy student, a student who refuses to work, is not only of no earthly use in any classroom but is a heavy and quite unnecessary liability. Such a student is a trial to the teacher, who already has enough trials. That is bad enough! But the presence of such a useless individual, flaunting his uselessness and up until now getting away with it, has a deplorable influence on all the other students. — Calgary Herald.

We've been served too much guff about education lately from too many theorists on the loose. And so we are grateful for a cartoon in the Saturday Review of Literature. It depicts two brats in the school yard heating the hide off each other and one teacher saying to another on the sidelines: "Richard is an only child and it's made him aggressive, rude and selfish — and the competition at home has made him turn out the same way." — Ottawa Citizen.

Combatting The 'Flu

(Moncton Times)

Medical science in this as well as in other countries long has sought to discover a preventive remedy for the common cold and its harder hitting relation, influenza or more commonly called "the flu". A new method which is hoped will eventually attain the desirable goal has been under experiment in Britain to counteract influenza. The influenza virus is now believed by many doctors to act on the brain and nerve cells in much the same way as does alcohol or an overdose of narcotics. It inhibits the energy-producing mechanisms of the brain cells and causes weakness and depression, thereby lowering the body's defences against its incursions.

In a recent paper to the Society for the Study of Addiction, Dr. Ponathan Gould summarized the result achieved with concentrated vitamin preparations at a large London teaching hospital. The treatment quickly restored alcoholics and "dope fiends" from comatose states to normal awareness and full activity. Equally dramatic was the response of a 40-year-old man who contracted severe influenza, which aggravated a chronic inflammation in his nasal passages. The preparation is not so much a drug for the direct treatment of influenza as a nutritive stimulus that enables the brain and nerve cells to regain full vigour after being attacked by the influenza virus, and, perhaps, by depression and the generally debilitating effects of winter. The new preparation has yet to prove itself in general practice, but it will have a bright future if it can do as much as is now hoped to raise the body's natural resistance to disease.

Last year, arrangements for large-scale tests of vaccination against influenza were made by the British Medical Research Council. These were carried out in 128 centres throughout Britain. The vaccines used were designed to immunise the volunteers against the influenza virus A—the type causing the most serious epidemics and losses to industry. In the trials it was found possible to obtain the equivalent of a 40 per cent reduction in influenza in two comparable groups.

From the end of November, workers from many industrial areas have begun to take part in a fresh series of trials. 160,000 people have already volunteered, and tests are expected to continue right through the winter. Industry will benefit greatly if these are successful. The Ministry of Pensions and National Insurance estimates that in 1951 alone, the United Kingdom suffered a loss of about 110 millions working hours as a result of influenza.

The law against misrepresentation of furs keeps only people, not animals, from being skinned. — Sudbury Daily Star.

We suspect that the punsters will soon be having fun with the name of Anthony Nutting, Britain's chief U. N. delegate particularly since Downing Street has taken the unusual step of qualifying statements made by Mr. Nutting in New York. Brooklyn, no doubt, will in future consider his pronouncements "strictly from Nuttin'." — Vancouver Province.

Exhaust pipes may easily become clogged from mud, or even ice and snow — and in old model cars it seems easier for the poisonous fumes to seep through the floor boards and take their deadly toll before the occupants are aware of what is happening. About the only way of making sure of not being a victim of this type of silent death is for persons not to remain in parked cars with the motor running and the windows closed. — Brockville Recorder and Times.

Britain is taking drastic steps to reduce the number of traffic accidents. And the pedestrian and the cyclist are to bear their share of the responsibility. Under a new bill in Parliament a pedestrian who disregards a policeman's traffic direction will be liable to a fine of \$75. A cyclist found guilty of riding carelessly, recklessly or dangerously will be liable to a fine of \$100, or go to jail for six months. Persons disqualified for dangerous driving or driving under the influence of alcohol will face stiff driving tests before getting their licences back under the bill which has yet to be approved by Parliament. If the bill is passed, which it probably will be, "that should learn them." — St. Thomas Times-Journal.

The Poet's Corner

ILIAD

False dreams, all false, mad heart, were yours. The world, and nought else, in time endures. Not you long after, perished and mute, will last, but the defter violet and lute. Sweetly they'll trouble the listeners from the cold dropped pebble of painless verse. Not you will be offered, but the poet's false pain. You have loved and suffered, mad heart, in vain. What love doth Helen or Paris have? Where they lie still in a nameless grave? Here beauty's a wrath, and the boy Paris muffles in death his mouth's cold cherries. Yes! these are less than love's summer, than one gold phrase of old blind Homer. Not Helen's wonder nor Paris' stirs, but the bright, untender hexameters. And thus, all passion is nothing made, but a star to flash in an Iliad. Mad heart, you were wrong! No love of yours, but only what's sung, when love's over, endures.

—Humbert Wolfe.

The Age Old Story

And the sticks whereon thou writest shall be in thine hand before their eyes. And say unto them, Thus saith the Lord God; Behold, I will take the children of Israel from among the heathen, whither they be gone, and will gather them on every side and bring them into their own land; and I will make them one nation in the land upon the mountains of Israel; and one king shall be king to them all.

Scholarships

(Mail and Empire)

The Dominion Bureau of Statistics reports there are 645 awards for postgraduate study and research open to Canadians. Of these, 255 are from the United States, 165 from the United Kingdom, 171 from Canadian sources, and thirteen from the United Nations and its agencies. Most of the scholarships are offered by universities, private trust funds, industries and Governments in twenty-two countries.

Of those offered in Canada, which have a total value of more than \$3 million, seventy-six are provided by universities, or from trust funds set up by private individuals and administered through universities, forty-six by private societies and associations, and twenty-one by industries.

This leaves the very small remainder of twenty-eight, provided by Governments. Since the Dominion Government, in particular, is a direct beneficiary of higher education in almost every way, it is disgraceful that it provides so little for the support of promising young people who are able to take advanced study in various fields, or have the special talent for research. A small number of scholarships are provided by the Department of External Affairs; some others by the National Research Council, and a handful from other branches of the Government. But not all the twenty-eight may be traced to the Dominion Government alone. A number are also provided by the Province of Quebec, to encourage intellectual and artistic achievement in that Province.

In comparison with the policy followed by the Governments of Great Britain and the United States, not to mention many lesser nations, Canada's support of scholarship and research is niggardly and shortsighted. Even the sums which are provided for research, mostly dispersed to universities, are uncertain and insufficient. Except for the Government's general grant to higher education, which is unconditional and highly praiseworthy, research funds are provided on a project basis, and as a result there is a maximum waste of effort, time and talent for the results achieved. What is needed is some regular, systematized basis of providing such funds, so that universities may plan their research and create and maintain trained staffs to do it.

This, valuable as it might be, is not the whole need, however. There is an urgent necessity for a broad program of direct aid to needy students, to ensure that talent is developed to the utmost degree. By far the majority of all student attending institutions of higher learning in Great Britain are receiving Government—provided assistance. Only a tiny minority in this country are assisted by scholarships. Since the present tax policy precludes the building up of large endowments from private sources, the only alternative is a Government-sponsored scholarship program. Only with such a scheme might this country stand on its own feet in respect to the development of Canadian talent and intellectual ability.

INCREASE CONTRIBUTIONS TORONTO (CP). — The United Church of Canada reported Tuesday its congregations have contributed another \$7,600 to the Ontario Hurricane Relief Fund. Total now given by the United Church to the fund is \$95,600.

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Canada's Prestige Abroad

By Patrick Nicholson

OTTAWA: Canada's prestige in other countries has reached new heights, of a degree which we in Canada neither suspect nor have any means of discovering.

This was the most distinct impression left in my mind by talks with Cabinet Ministers, high officials and average citizens of our thirteen North Atlantic allies, at the NATO meeting in Paris last month.

The high esteem in which Canada is held is steadily rising, so that even our diplomatic officials are constantly being surprised by new manifestations of it. How much more so would the average reader of this paper be surprised, and modestly pleased, to find the admiration and respect with which men of lesser breed would regard him if he were to visit those other countries.

As a nation, we are perhaps unaware of the full extent of our growth over the past fifteen years. I therefore make no apology for writing this to tell you what other countries are today thinking about you, although you may not think it of yourself.

In the field of diplomacy, Canada enjoys a quite unique position, through facts of geography and history. Field Marshal Montgomery called us the hinge of purest gold between the old world and the new. More specifically, we have been truly described as the keystone of the arch between Britain and the United States. Our position as a member of the Commonwealth and as a North American nation thrusts that role upon us. We have accepted it with grace and courage, and play it manfully. History gives us a link with France, and this is perhaps the part of our birthright of which we make less than full advantage. Our population places us in the ranks of the smaller nations, but our wealth gives us a status greater than our population alone would justify. We are not an overcrowded land, so we do not seek territorial expansion; history never bestowed upon us overseas possessions. Thus the third great side of our international role is that of elected leader of the smaller nations.

This adds up to the quite extraordinary situation that we can speak for Britain to the States, and for the States to Britain; we can interpret both their countries to France, and vice versa; and we can speak to the great powers as, and on behalf of, a small power. There is no nigger in Canada's woodpile; nobody can suspect us of any ambition running counter to the general good.

On top of this, we are an international trader, so we can not be suspected of protectionist ambitions or of other plans to restrict trade. We are a rich nation, and we are willing and able to give away some of our arms, our money and our skills to help our allies and friends. We are a nation with an empty land and an open door, promising a better life to migrants

from some of our overpopulated countries. Canada, in fact, is — and is recognised as — the honest broker of international affairs. That is why the great men of other lands are so interested in us, anxious to earn our friendship and keen to learn our thoughts. How often was I asked, by Frenchmen or Briton, by American or Scandinavian, by Italian, Turk or other ally, "What does Canada think about so-and-so or such-and-such a question?" The interrogators, I quickly realised, were sincerely anxious to know — and perhaps to copy — what Canada thinks.

Canada could today be a very great influence in international affairs. Other nations are ready and anxious to heed our advice and follow our lead. The only question is whether we are sufficiently aware that the diplomatic ball is at our feet. This attitude in other countries is crystallised already in one important respect: Canada will be allowed to keep Mike Pearson to herself because bigger jobs await him. Most immediately, there is irresistible and unanimous demand that he should accept the post of Secretary General of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, when the present holder, Lord Ismay, retires, perhaps at the end of this year. Behind this sentiment, one can sense disappointment that he is not now Secretary General of the United Nations. But there is no Russian opposition to keep him out of the NATO job. And it will be as a tribute to Canada no less than as a tribute to Mr. Pearson that that honour will, as it now seems, be handed to him on a silver platter.

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