

situation exists. So far there have been five dead and 15 wounded, according to official lists. Mr. Rudnycky says the foreign ministers of Italy and Austria have been meeting in Geneva to pave the way for talks designed to solve the problem. But here and in other parts of Europe there are grievances of long standing, some of them in Quebec. Based on cultural, economic, political and other differences between ethnic groups, they erupt with violence from time to time.

If we haven't heard much about them in this part of the world, probably it's because we're too self-centred to concern ourselves with matters beyond the range of our own interests.

Should Be Debated

In August, Mr. Pearson wrote the provincial premiers a jaunty letter about plans to allow any province to contract out of a long list of federal-provincial programs. Quebec, which has already taken full advantage of the offer, will by 1966 receive as compensation 47 per cent of personal income taxes levied by the federal authorities in that province. So far, other provinces haven't followed suit. But what will happen if and when they do?

Perhaps this is the question that has reportedly brought the federal cabinet under fire from a number of its own party supporters, who fear that the opting-out formula is a step in the wrong direction, and that the Liberals are giving a public impression of willingness to make too many concessions to Quebec.

The Ottawa Journal suggested the other day that these contracting-out arrangements are serious enough to warrant early full-scale debate in Parliament. Is the government prepared, it asked, to continue indefinitely in the role of chief tax collector while others have the pleasure of spending the money raised? A policy of financial appeasement in dealing with the provinces could have disastrous results on the structure of the nation.

Needless to say, it is the provinces with the smallest tax potential that are most seriously threatened under a policy of this kind. Prince Edward Island is in a particularly vulnerable position. It would be helpful, indeed, to have the whole matter debated in Parliament—helpful and of much more concern to our taxpayers than the wretched controversy over other matters that has taken up so much of the time of the current session.

New Ground Rules

Advice to candidates seeking the women's vote in the current U.S. election campaign: No flattery; no patronizing; solid discussion of basic issues. And, most emphatically, no baby kissing. That's the word today from leaders of important women's groups, and campaigners hoping to win a sizable share of the nation's 38½ million female voters had better pay attention to it.

About baby kissing, "that would not make an impression on me whether I was the baby or the voting crowd," says Mrs. William Hasebrook, president of the General Federation of Women's Clubs which has a membership of 11 million. As for flattery—speechmakers' chivalrous references to "the magnificent array of pulchritude in the audience" just doesn't go down any more.

"Women," says this authority, "have no time for these amenities. They want to get down to the basic issues. Since what we want is to stress a togetherness world, a partnership of both sexes in solving problems, campaign speeches don't have to be slanted to please us."

Similar views have been expressed by spokesmen for the League of Women Voters. Which just goes to show that the world is changing, and even the grand old game of political hokum may have to be modified accordingly.

EDITORIAL NOTE

The Conservatives have a one strong card in the British election campaign. Employment is at a record high. Indeed, according to the latest official figures there are more jobs vacant than people out of work. In June this year there were 41,700 more vacancies than in May, and it is estimated that about 9,800 of these were newly-created jobs.



JACK AND JILL WENT UP THE HILL

NEW LITERARY TECHNIQUE

Computer Invades The Poet's Paradise

Earl Ubell in the Montreal Gazette

Milton, wouldst thou were living in this hour to see your "Paradise Lost" picked apart by an electronic computer and served up by a rattling typewriter in odious comparison to Shelley's "Prometheus Unbound." For it seems to be true—electronically and literally—that Shelley borrowed your diction to refute your philosophy.

Dr. Joseph Rahn, Professor of English at Queens College, in Flushing, N.Y., presented the evidence linking the 17th century statesman-poet, John Milton, with the 18th century romantic, Percy Bysshe Shelley, after an International Business Machines computer had scanned both poems, line for line and word for word, making two billion comparisons.

"I could never have achieved this in my lifetime," Prof. Rahn said at a conference on literary data processing held here at the Thomas J. Watson Laboratories, but "the way is now open to make dozens of literary comparisons, even of the whole work of a poet's work, to trace the influences on his style and meaning."

An old idea. The literary analysis goes back to an old idea in literary criticism: namely, that if a poet is influenced by another, he will "borrow" phrases and words of his predecessor, and play with them in his own works.

This analysis was done by the late Prof. John Livingston Lowes for Coleridge's poetry in "The Road to Xanadu"—but it meant that Dr. Lowes had to read every book Coleridge had read, and try to remember in Coleridge's poetry each particular passage.

Brisk mornings may quicken the human pulse, but the inner fires now sink to a smoulder in the insect world. True, heeds to run out for those chitin-clad cold-blooded flies of life that crawl and creep and buzz and stridulate. Bee and bug and beetle are slowing down. For, as the end of their brief time.

On a warm day or a hot afternoon, the bees are as lively as ever. The beetles scurry in the garden, the grasshopper sits tight ahead of you, the footstep in the meadow, the bumblebee is busy at the late petals, and the honeybee is provisioning the hive from the roadside aster. But in the cool of the morning, before the sun has warmed the day, even the provident ants are sluggish. Until the temperature has risen to 50 degrees the bumblebee is too stiff to fly, the grasshoppers can scarcely move their ungainly legs, and the beetles must stay in hiding.

In a very real sense, they are cold. Their metabolism has slowed their search for life abates. And there is no appeal from the shortening of their lives. For, a few weeks longer they will hop and crawl when the sun is benevolent, and then they will be almost desperately low. But the commitment has been made. The eggs are laid for another brief generation. From now on the inner fires will burn lower and more briefly. They will come the long, deep quiet until another spring, another summer.

Parkinson's Law Again

Montreal Gazette. The Canadian House of Commons was recently given a convincing demonstration of the famous Parkinson's Law, which says that a civil service expands in accordance with its number, regardless of whether or not it has more business to handle.

In 1960, the House was informed, there were 1,476 employed in the defence production department. The number had grown to 1,829. But the actual purchases being made by the department have fallen to their lowest level since 1910.

In his original article in The Economist magazine, Parkinson gave a similar example. He gave statistics for the number of British Admiralty officials in 1914 and 1925. In 1914 the Navy was anticipating a war, and had been built up for this reason. In 1925, on the other hand, disarmament was the order of the day.

Swallowing Of Poisons NOTES BY THE WAY

By Dr. Theodore R. Van Dellen. The children's hospital medicine center of Boston recently sent out a release recommending the inclusion of charcoal in a pesticide in the home first aid kit. These products are helpful antidotes in certain types of accidental poisoning.

This mishap remains a dreadful problem with young children, who put anything and everything in the mouth. No matter how careful and alert the parents may be, the toddler has a genius for finding and drinking household products that are not meant to go into the stomach. Ipecac is an old time emetic; by making the child throw up, the poison comes with it. But the hospital warn that vomiting is not advisable when the child has been swallowed with it. By the end of two years, a large collection was amassed away in the small intestine. The man was not complaining. Surgery was advised because the repository was large enough to be felt through the abdominal wall.

The Brooklyn surgeons reported the patient's loss in the New York State Journal of Medicine. There were 34 kegs of various sizes and 29 pieces of money, including a dollar bill. It quarters and 7 nickels. There were nine chains, eight crosses (Catholic and Jewish), three pocket knives, two box can openers, four nail files, three bracelets, a set of 39 buttons. All together there were 150 articles of value. "We are now ready," Dr. Rahn said, "to tackle any patient and to trace the influences 'he may have had. It's an exciting possibility."

Today's Health Hint—Restlessness can kill. Chinese sources in Peking, however, termed the statements a fabrication "without root or branch, although Washington is understood to have been aware for some time that the Chinese are about ready to release a nuclear explosion.

China, so far, has been able neither to solve her food shortage nor build a powerful industrial machine but she has made respectable strides that have caught the attention of a number of Asian lands. CHINESE INFLUENCE. Chinese attempts to cast her influence among non-aligned nations of the world are being watched, and checked where possible, by the United States, while the Soviet Union has gone out of its way to let the Chinese know that they will not receive the backing of Russia in any reckless adventures.

But, as the Soviet-Chinese ideological struggle continues, often silently, and the Americans try to decide whether to pull out of South Viet Nam or to engage the Chinese-backed North Vietnamese in total war, the Chinese influence continues to spread.

China has achieved this status in a relatively short period despite political isolation from many countries, including Canada and the United States, who have refused to recognize the Communist Chinese government.

Imperialist prey. The prey of imperialist powers in the 19th century, China herself now has emerged as a potential imperialist power and one that is increasingly attempting to spread her influence throughout Asia, Africa and even Latin America.

Statements by Paul Martin, Canada's external affairs minister, and by U.S. State Secretary Dean Rusk, that China will soon explode a nuclear device will no doubt reduce the element of surprise when the actual blast takes place.

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