

The United States did not succeed in persuading this group that Cuba is a threat to the independence and freedom of other Latin-American countries. Among the 39 abstainers was India, which said it was taking no stand on the issue. Tunisia, Jordan, Liberia, and several other African countries normally considered Western oriented. 28 non-Communist countries voted in favor of another provision of last week's resolution which called upon Cuba and the United States "to settle their differences by peaceful means, through negotiation, without recourse to use of force." The United States opposed this provision on the ground that it portrayed the problem as a bilateral Cuban-American dispute, rather than a dispute between Cuba and the rest of the hemisphere. The 28 countries, plus 11 Communist nations, who voted "yes" disagreed.

None of the essential recommendations of the resolution got even a simple majority, let alone the two-thirds which would have been necessary for final enactment. The closest vote was 59 to 46 for bilateral negotiations. Because none of the essential parts was approved separately, there was no vote on the resolution as a whole.

One is inclined to get impatient with these split decisions on issues involving Communist threats of aggression or infiltration. But the U.S. Ambassador at the United Nations, Mr. Adlai Stevenson, takes a philosophic view of the problem. Speaking recently about the "exhausting process of trying to muster the necessary majority for a resolution in a parliamentary body of over 100 sovereign nations," he said that it is on the whole "a civilizing experience."

It requires skills in which the free world should be more adept than the Soviets, who have not yet outgrown the notion of reliance on brute force.

Here the emphasis is on the need of making haste slowly, which would seem to apply particularly at this time to the Cuban situation.

Legion Meeting

The Charlottetown branch of the Royal Canadian Legion has no fewer than 850 members, and it is hoped to have a large percentage of them present at a mass meeting of members which has been called for tomorrow evening. At this meeting plans for a proposed new \$200,000 Legion building, to be completed before the 1964 Centennial celebrations, will be discussed.

This is a matter in which all our citizens are interested indirectly, for the Legion is an organization worthy of support and co-operation in every community. But it takes pride in standing on its own feet, in helping others rather than in seeking help, and this particular project will place it in a better position than ever to function effectively in the Charlottetown area.

It is not something, however, to be undertaken without full consideration. We have been asked to call attention to the importance of Thursday night's meeting at which a decision will be made, and to urge all members to be in attendance if possible. We think this well deserving of being noted editorially, and trust that the turnout of veterans will be as large and representative as on other occasions when an urgent summons has gone forth.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Britain's labor leader, Hugh Gaitskell, now visiting Washington, has appealed to President Kennedy to delay a decision on resumption of atmospheric nuclear tests until the disarmament conference resumes in Geneva next month. Mr. Gaitskell says his party would oppose any tests if these are carried out for prestige purposes only, but it would support them if it can be shown that such tests are necessary to maintain the Western nuclear deterrent. A very proper stand.

There is a mystery at Ottawa about the disappearance of an oil portrait of former Prime Minister R. B. Bennett. It seems the portrait had been sent to the Canadian Parliament and that it vanished, leaving a gap in the ranks of Canadian government leaders whose pictures adorn the walls of the building. This is passing strange. Surely the Grits didn't make off with it? To forestall such a base suspicion perhaps Mr. Pickersgill could rise on a question of privilege, disavowing all party responsibility for the nefarious deed.

As pointed out by a U.N. correspondent for the Christian Science Monitor, refusal to vote "no" on this key proposal was tantamount to refusal to deny the existence of United States "interference." It reflected lack of sympathy with the United States' basic contention that Communism must not be permitted to obtain a foothold in the Western hemisphere.



SING ALONG WITH MIKE

OTTAWA REPORT by Patrick Nicholson

Old Age Pension Payments

Canada's Old Age Pensioners are now the most generously treated in the world. Under the new Diefenbaker formula of \$65 per month for each older, a qualified married couple now draws \$1,560 a year. This is comfortably ahead of the average of \$1,490 paid to a similar couple in the U.S. The Canadian figure looks even better when contrasted to the average per capita income in the two countries, with U.S. running almost half as much again as Canada's \$1,540 average figure.

Last year our Old Age Pension was financed by the 3-3-3 formula, consisting of 3 per cent added to our individual income tax, to our sales tax and to our corporation income tax. The levy on individual income tax was restricted to a maximum of \$90 per individual. In the latest year surveyed, the average income tax payer contributed about \$46 to our Old Age Pension fund; and, since we must recognize that the individual is the ultimate payer of all taxes, he also contributed an average of \$23 through Corporation income tax, and an average of \$69 through sales tax.

Thus in general terms we can say that the average Canadian earner is paying about \$138 a year into the fund; and he draws for himself and his wife \$1,560 a year out of the fund in their old age. Contributions will probably have to be increased to make the fund actually sound following the latest increase.

Our old age pension is payable to everyone, regardless of their need. And the same pension is paid to everyone, regardless of his place of residence.

This raises various questions. Community charity, or should it now be called "community social justice", is rightly levied from each according to his means. But is it distributed to each according to his needs?

A sidelight on these needs is of course provided by the average wages and salaries earned in various parts of Canada.

The average Canadian is today earning \$4,111 a year in salaries and wages. But the figure fluctuates widely from this national average in various provinces.

Thus the old age pension payable to a couple in wealthy British Columbia is about one-third of the average earnings for one person in that province. At the other end of the scale, an old couple in P.E.I. draw exactly the same pension; yet prior to

PUBLIC FORUM

This column is open to the discussion by correspondents of questions of interest. The Guardian does not necessarily endorse the opinions of correspondents. All letters published are subject to editing and condensation where necessary. The Guardian is unable to enter into any correspondence regarding letters submitted.

POTATO PRICES Sir.—William Froude's letter of Feb. 17 prompts me to write and ask the Potato Marketing Board through your Public Forum for an approximate itemized breakdown of the cost of selling a 75 pound bag of potatoes to the wholesalers in Toronto or Montreal.

When the old Potato Marketing Board was in operation, we used to get within 90 or 70 cents of the wholesalers' price to the retailers. Now it is a dollar or more. Perhaps we should consider the teletype method of selling potatoes in eastern Canada, with a start in P.E.I. and N.B. similar to the system of selling hogs in Ontario. I am, Sir, etc. ELDON DRUMMOND South Preston.

retirement, "father" in our Island province was averaging only twice that pension. Thus the P. E. I. pensioner is much better off than the B.C. pensioner, since the varying wage levels reflect to a certain extent the cost of living in different provinces. This has to be recognized by supplementary pension payments made by the B. C. provincial government, as also in Saskatchewan and Alberta, in case of need. SICKBED OR WELL-BED Rent and medical costs are the two grave loads upon the means of pensioners. Increased

Algerian Peace Accord

By Alan Harvey Canadian Press Staff Writer

The reported Franco-Arab agreement leaves only one "enemy" to peace in Algeria. After seven years of fighting, the accord reached in the Ural Mountains, if it becomes final, will signify an end to hostilities between the French government and the rebel Algerian nationalists.

But what started in 1954 as a straight fight between French authority and the insurgent Moslems has become a three-way war, and everything now depends on the third party.

This is the Secret Army Organization, an illegal group of dissident French army officers pledged to keep Algeria French. It has the active support, or at least the complicity, of nearly all Algeria's 1,000,000 European population.

Now that a cease-fire seems to be imminent, many fear that paradoxically the shooting will start in earnest.

PUT UP OR SHUT UP For the secret army now faces its biggest test. It must put up or shut up. There is an enormous, pent-up desire for peace among the masses of Algeria, both Arab and European.

Bacteria In Submarines

National Geographic Bulletin

Bacteria are among the smallest living things and probably the least appreciated. But eventually they may serve man in startling ways.

The United States Navy is supporting a project at Santa Fe Springs, California, where "biological batteries" that use bacteria to make electrical energy, bacteria may someday power submarines more cheaply than nuclear engines. They might also convert a city's garbage into electric power.

Bacteria have long performed such chores as turning dead plants into top soil, helping cows convert grass into milk, and producing cheese and pickles for man. Today they are being given a host of new jobs. Farmers spray bacteria spores on fields to kill insect pests. Nitrogen-fixing bacteria are added to some plant seed to improve fertility.

BACTERIA PILLS SWALLOWED Some doctors give patients pellets of harmless bacteria to combat disease-causing bacteria in the digestive system. Dentists are studying the possibility of administering vitamins to help harmless bacteria grow at the expense of those believed responsible for tooth decay.

Interest in bacteria and other microorganisms is now so high that the American Type Culture Collection, the national repository for "germs" in Washington, D.C., is planning to build new facilities to house its expanding activities.

The Collection serves as a bureau of standards and distribution center for microorganisms. It distributes over 12,000

cultures of bacteria and other microorganisms each year for scientific and industrial uses. The tiny bacteria must be magnified about 1,000 times to be seen clearly. They look like tiny balls, rods, and corkscrews. The spheres, called cocci, may form necklaces (streptococci) or grape-like bunches (staphylococci); the hyphenlike rods are called bacilli; the corkscrews, spirilla.

Most bacteria do not harm, but some cause diseases ranging from pneumonia to bubonic plague. About 2,000 species are known. They live almost everywhere, often in fantastic quantities. A teaspoon of earth may contain billions.

Bacteria are generally considered to be plants, and thus are distinguished from animal microorganisms such as protozoa and the viruses, substances so simple that scientists disagree as to whether they are living at all.

Bacteria live by absorbing food through the wall of their single cell. Some never move; others swim by sculling with slender, hairlike projections called flagella. They reproduce by simply pinching themselves in two. Some bacteria can reproduce every 15 minutes in this fashion. If their reproduction were not checked by adverse conditions, the descendants of a single bacterium would exceed the total bulk of the earth in several days.

Rheumatic fever Damaged Heart Needs Protection

By Dr. Theodore Van Dellen Rheumatic fever destroys and cripples more children than does polio. The disease leaves no visible signs, no paralysis, no braces; it damages the heart by scarring the valves and weakening the muscle.

The child or adult with rheumatic heart disease must make allowances for the handicap but need not resort to vegetative existence. There are two things he should keep in mind. His heart condition came from rheumatic fever, which was preceded by a strep infection. This means he should avoid respiratory infections at any cost, even to the extent of taking penicillin or a sulfonamide daily. It is the group A hemolytic streptococcus that triggers rheumatic fever in susceptible individuals.

There is no such thing as immunity to rheumatic fever; if anything, one attack makes the individual more susceptible to recurrences. The child or young adult should stay away from crowds when respiratory infections are rife, avoid persons with colds, and get ample sleep to maintain resistance. Cleanliness also is important because the strep organisms can be passed along via contaminated fingers.

The second point to remember is that a defective or scarred valve is a handicap the heart tries to overcome by beating a little harder or faster. Exertion increases the load. The person may not be aware of this because the muscle enlarges to overcome the backflow or to force the blood through the narrowed opening.

This is a silent, sneaky process that affords a false sense of security. But there is a limit as to how large the heart can become and when the limit is reached, the pumping apparatus begins to falter and dropsy ensues.

The secret is not to overtax the heart through unnecessary exertion and strain. Maintain some cardiac reserve by living a restrained and unhurried existence. Meanwhile, the rheumatic heart should be checked periodically to determine if the reserve is being depleted. Some benefit is derived from surgery when the valves are too narrow and the muscle is strained. This is a question for the physician to answer.

INFECTED SINUSES

K.G. writes: Could seeping from infected sinuses cause cancer of the lung?

REPLY We do not know the cause of lung cancer except that it usually develops in persons with chronic bronchitis. Infected sinuses should be treated if the discharge irritates the bronchi. Regardless of the cancer threat, infected sinuses are a source of toxicity and a drain on the body's resistance. Why not eliminate this source of infection?

REACTION TO ARMY

K.G. writes: A 23 year old man entered the service and couldn't adapt to army life. As a result he had a nervous breakdown. Will this affect his future life?

REPLY Not necessarily. All of us have a breaking point and some men cannot tolerate regimentation, monotony, or being away from home.

NOTES BY THE WAY

The U.S. bars imports from Cuba. Cigar smokers now know what the President meant when he talked about sacrifices. — Buffalo Evening News.

Five water trucks have been spraying the streets of Catania with the odor of pine. Most citizens and all tourists declare themselves charmed with such perfume, so it will now be applied at the fish market. — La Nazione, Florence.

The other day, a 21-year-old secretary in an English rope manufacturer's office accidentally posted with an income tax return a line curl she had cut off her hair. The tax man gallantly returned the curl with this note: "I am very touched by the lock of hair enclosed in the envelope and for one fleeting moment I indulged in the fantasy that someone loved me." — Hamilton Spectator.

Ontario's deputy public works minister complains that women's spike heels are cutting the life expectancy of provincial building floors from seven years to one. Then that must be happening to floors all over the continent and wherever else this peculiar fashion persists. Spike heels may prove one of the most expensive forms of feminine adornment ever invented by the fashion industry. — Ottawa Citizen.

Unique Old Chieftain

Toronto Globe and Mail

Among suggestions made for the celebration of Canada's centenary in 1967 is that a search be launched for a man who resembles Sir John A. Macdonald, Canada's first Prime Minister. The proposal has been submitted, in all seriousness, to the Metropolitan Toronto executive committee, for inclusion in the local area's centennial program.

No indication has been given as to what will be done with this fortunate double when he is found. Will he be given a lifetime pass by the Canadian Pacific Railway, or several cases of Canadian champagne? Would it not be extremely embarrassing for the Conservative Party if the likeness of the old Tory chieftain turned out to be an ardent Liberal or a new-fangled Socialist?

The rules for a resemblance competition presumably would be those set by Professor Donald Creighton, who has sketched many delightful pen portraits of Sir John A. One of them is as follows:

At 52, he was in the prime of life and at the height of his powers. There was no sign of portliness in his tall, slight, jaunty figure. The defiant panache of his dark curly hair had subsided only a little; and the ugly charm of his face, with its big nose and generally sardonic smile, was as attractive as ever. He took life easily and enjoyed it to the full, despite the sorrows it had brought him.

A Professor Creighton again: "His smiling capacity for liquor, his bawdy jokes and his soft saviour were all elements of strength." We suspect that the mold was broken after Sir John A. Macdonald was made, but for those who see the Old Chieftain in their shaving mirror each morning—and are brave enough to admit it—the line forms on the right.

OUR YESTERDAYS

From the Guardian Files

TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO (Feb. 21, 1937)

In the mid-winter examinations at Mt. Allison, Miss Jean Weeks, Millstream, N.B., and P.E.I., stands high in the class list. She led a large class in modern history and made high first class rank in three other studies. Miss Weeks spent the past summer in Europe with her brother, Mr. Ernest Weeks, who now holds a position at Oxford.

TEN YEARS AGO (Feb. 21, 1952)

Fire early this morning destroyed MacPherson's store at Southport village. The Southport post-office which was housed in MacPherson store was also lost in the fire. Snow banked as high as twelve feet in places along the road prevented the City firemen from rendering early assistance.

The secretary of the P. E. I. Federation of Agriculture, J. Lincoln Dewar, left yesterday morning for Toronto. While there he will be a member of a three-man panel board which will discuss on the air, the effect of the immigration policy in conjunction with present day agricultural problems.

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