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

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No "White Paper"

Secretary of State Dulles has turned down a Democratic request for a "White Paper" on events leading up to last fall's Suez crisis, on the ground that it would "reopen the old wounds" involved in American differences with Britain and France.

Mr. Dulles' critics, and their number is growing every day, are saying that American policy in the Middle East prior to British-French intervention in Egypt was riddled with vacillation and appeasement and, as Senator Fulbright of Arkansas put it, "disastrous to U.S. allies."

As for "reopening old wounds"—if, indeed, they have been closed—it is hard to see how the published truth could have any such effect.

Shakespearean Production

The members of the Charlottetown Kinsmen Club are bringing here a production of outstanding dramatic calibre. The Canadian Players of Stratford are famous throughout the continent for their presentations, and they will be seen and heard here for the first time in their production of Shakespeare's "Hamlet."

The Canadian Players Limited was formed in the summer of 1954 by Tom Patterson, director of planning of the Stratford Shakespeare Festival, and Douglas Campbell, Scottish actor who has been one of the stars of the Festival since its inaugural year.

actor, William Hutt, plays the leading role in "Hamlet", with Deborah Turnbull as Ophelia. The company travels by bus, and uses a minimum of theatrical trappings. Time, place and character are suggested by costumes and props only.

Moscow's Reaction

The Moscow Radio has "commended" Britain for what it calls its "retreat from a position of strength." This is the Soviet Union's official reaction to Prime Minister Macmillan's declared intention to give the country's defense system an overhauling so as to allow a gradual reduction in military personnel in West Germany and perhaps, in course of time, a slight reduction in costs.

The Soviet "commendation" is, noteworthy, nevertheless. It is the first conciliatory word that has come from Moscow to London since that dark autumn day when the United States and the Soviet Union lined up in the U.N. General Assembly to condemn Britain and France for their intervention in Europe.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Sociologists who made a survey of drinking habits in Greenland report that "too many Greenlanders drink too much too often." They must not imagine, however, that the report puts them in a distinctive position.

San Marino, the smallest republic in the world and a landlocked state, is going to establish a navy—on paper, that is. The purpose is to allow foreign ships to sail under the flag of the republic. That's something new in the art of attracting foreign business.

There may be some anti-British and anti-French sentiment in the United States as a result of the Suez incident; but evidently it is not widespread. The latest Gallup Poll survey indicated that the great majority of the people favor a quick resumption of allied unity.

Several prominent Americans have protested the visit of King Saud of Saudi Arabia to the White House. The latest to voice disapproval was the Rt. Rev. H. W. B. Donegan, Bishop of the Protestant Episcopal Diocese of New York who described Saudi Arabia as a country "with neither religious freedom nor democratic processes."

Barbados, Jamaica and Trinidad all have ambitions to be the capital of the Caribbean Federation which is soon to enter on Dominion status. If the representatives fail to agree on a choice the distinction will probably fall to some place less suitable than any of the three. It's a poor way, in any case, to start out as a sovereign nation. There will be many problems requiring unity much more serious than the selection of a capital city.



THINKING IT OVER

OTTAWA REPORT

To Assist Municipalities

Ottawa: A novel suggestion, intended to assist municipalities hard pressed by the government's credit restrictions, has been put forward in parliament by Mr. Michel Starr, Conservative M.P. for Oshawa and district.

The federal government, suggested Mr. Starr, should set up a fund from which municipalities could borrow ample funds at a low rate of interest. This money is needed to finance the construction of the schools, hospitals, streets, sewers, water supply and other community services made necessary by our continual growth of population.

Under more normal conditions, a municipal government has been able to borrow all the money it needed through a bond issue at interest as low as 3 per cent. But the present restrictions on credit, imposed by the federal government, have forced interest rates to such high levels, and the supply of money to such a low level, that municipalities are having extreme difficulty in borrowing money at all.

But for what reason do we work, save, and invest? he asked "except to raise our family standard of good living?" Yet this standard is being kept down by the inability of our municipalities to provide services in keeping with a progressive civilization; services such as adequate hospitals, modern uncrowded schools, well-protected homes with power, water and sewage system, Mr. Starr indicated.

Few will disagree with the well-reasoned and far-sighted of Oshawa M.P., on behalf of his own home town and all other municipalities across Canada. The division of taxes, as agreed upon at the time of Confederation, is unrealistic today; the allocation of tax fields as accepted a generation ago, or even a decade ago, is unsatisfactory. And the fiscal policies of the federal government, by handicapping municipal borrowers, are given Mr. and Mrs. Johnny Canuck poorer municipal services than they need at a higher cost in municipal taxes than they can afford.

Farm Income & Price Supports

Winnipeg Free Press

The proposals of the Gordon Commission for dealing with the depression of the agricultural industry in the Maritimes take the general form of increasing the size of individual farms and the provision, if possible, of non-agricultural sources of income. Suggested improvement in land use would presumably increase total farm production. Coupled with an increase in farm size, the result should be a larger net income for farmers. The Commission report also suggests that farmers should own and harvest more woodlots. This would provide a source of income from a commodity which, while it may change in price, is unlikely to go up or down in exact step with products in prices of farm products. Experience in Sweden has demonstrated that this can have a useful stabilizing influence on farm income.

CREDIT FACILITIES The report also suggests that the federal Government in co-operation with governments concerned might assist in the provision of credit facilities. Without a capital the modernization of farm techniques is impossible. Certainly increased availability of long-term credit for farmers is an important need in farm policy. The Commission notes that there will probably be an increase in co-operatives, and in compulsory marketing boards. It points out that there will be opposition to the compulsory features of such boards, but does not indicate whether, in its view, such boards are really desirable. Nor does it discuss what a very different job a livestock board, for example, would have to tackle, compared with the sort of marketing required for a bulk crop such as wheat.

NOTES BY THE WAY

Old age has many fine things about it. For instance, you can whistle while you wash your teeth. —Kitchener-Waterloo Record

In these modern days when many meals are opened by the can opener, grace before meals is said more important than ever. —St. Catharines Standard

The lower the temperatures, the more need is there for precautions against fire. Overheated furnaces, pipes and overloaded power systems are invitations to disaster. —Ottawa Citizen

Winter driving would be much safer and there would be fewer crushed fenders if all drivers would realize that driving practices safe on dry pavement simply do not work on snow, and especially not on wet and greasy snow. —Ottawa Journal

A Swiss mountaineer has spent 235 days on the slopes of Mount Everest without finding any trace of Abominable Snowman, a monstrous creature supposed to walk like a man. But the myth will persist, nevertheless. The world does not lightly surrender its beliefs in the strange and the unaccountable. —Edmonton Journal

After Dublin, Belfast and New York, there are more Irish people in London than in any other city of the world. This is revealed in the report of Greater London issued by the British stationing office. It is estimated that not far from 400,000 Irish-born people live in London and the home counties. —Cork, Ireland, Examiner

Part of cold January, blizzard February and fickle March still lie ahead. Our Old Farmer's Almanac warns of rain and sleet to come, of raw easterly gales before the New Year is dry behind the ears. March, it says, will be "changeable"—a sure bet if ever there was one. But one thing is certain, the sun will rise earlier each dawn as it swings on its great arc to the north. And Spring will surely follow. —London Free Press

What Canadian tourist, like any other tourists anywhere, want first is top-notch facilities for their comfort, from good roads and good accommodations to good food, good service and a wide selection of alternative activities when the weather is bad or when they tire of looking at scenery, beautiful though it may be. Scenery and slogans plainly are not enough. —Calgary Herald

If Canada seriously embarks on an enlarged program of apprenticeship training we must all realize that the spirit of craftsmanship never died. It merely became submerged beneath an accumulation of materialism. It could open the way for more men and women to rediscover that a trade well learned, leading to a job well done, has an inner satisfaction beyond tangible profits. —Vancouver Sun

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MAXIMS There cannot be a surer proof of low origin or of innate meanness of disposition than to be always talking of being generous. TWO WOMEN TERRORISTS IPOH, Malaya (Reuters) — A Malay patrol killed two women communist terrorists on a rubber estate 36 miles south of Ipoh. The husband of one of the victims was described as leader of one of the most ruthless gangs in the state of Perak.