

THE GUARDIAN

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Opportunism in Iran

The Iranian Government's action in choosing the very moment that the Big Four Deputy Foreign Ministers were meeting in Paris, to "nationalize" the British-owned oilfields in that Middle East country, is an example of political opportunism at its worst. Russian-inspired Communist agitation undoubtedly played a part in the matter. In view of Iran's traditional fear of the Soviet Union, however, it is indeed questionable whether Communism was as much of a factor in the move as despatches from Teheran suggest. Rather, it would appear that the Iranian Government, recognizing that British intervention was unlikely in view of probable Russian reaction, chose this particular time to grab in defiance of treaty obligations and solemn contracts, property which did not belong to them.

Opportunism is an attitude which, through long experience, a good many westerners have come to associate with oriental and asiatic conduct in international relations. That it should be resorted to by a people whose relations with the United Kingdom and the west have been traditionally friendly makes the situation only that much worse.

The bald facts of the situation, as the British Foreign Office knows full well, are that other than diplomatic protests on the part of London would precipitate a crisis which almost certainly would make World War III a reality. Iran's rich oil fields have long been coveted by the Soviet Union, whose own oil resources were found to be vulnerable to land attack during World War II. It is not without significance that the Kremlin should have attributed the assassination of Iran's Prime Minister, which preceded the seizure, as engineered by United States influence, and absolved Britain from all blame.

The Anglo-Iranian oilfields, great as their loss may be, will in no sense constitute the same threat to western security as would have been the case during World War II. Canada's vast new oil resources, and discoveries elsewhere, will make it possible to provide all the oil that may be needed for immediate requirements. Meanwhile, the Government of Iran has achieved a reputation for international blackmail which the western democracies, including Canada, will not be likely to forget for a long time to come.

Leg-Pull

The Englishman may not be famous for wit and repartee but he does get an unholy pleasure out of gently misleading earnest seekers after information. A Canadian Press staff writer (E. S. Johnson) was recently led up the garden path by some unnamed English sporting official.

"The Ashes" is the mythical trophy for which England and Australia have competed since 1882 when a mock In-Memoriam notice appeared in a sporting journal to the effect that English cricket had died at the Oval. The remains would be cremated and the ashes taken to Australia.

In the midst of a long list of venerable trophies which will be on display this summer at the National Sporting Trophies Association, including, the sponsors hope, the Stanley Cup, it is solemnly reported that a replica of the famous "Ashes" will be shown.

Doukhobors and Doukhobors

President Dr. Norman MacKenzie of the University of British Columbia was asked last summer by Attorney General B. C. to form and act as chairman of a committee to look into and make recommendations about matters affecting the Doukhobor population of the Province, and their relations with the non-Doukhobors in the Kootenay-Boundary area of the Province.

The Committee has been formed, consisting of representatives of various departments of government, both provincial and federal; Boards of Trade of Eastern B. C.; the American Friends Society; the University of British Columbia; churches; school boards and the various Doukhobor sects.

Of the thousands of Doukhobors in British Columbia, the majority are peaceful and law-abiding people; only the Sons of Freedom group has been involved, over a period of many years, in a series of nudist demonstrations and acts of arson, resulting in convictions and prison sentences.

Although the B. C. press has presented the situation in a fair and accurate manner, at a recent meeting of the Consultative

Committee, the Independent Doukhobors and the Orthodox Doukhobors asked that some action be taken whereby press releases, broadcasts and other public announcements would distinguish between Doukhobors in general and the Sons of Freedom sect, because of the stigma that has become attached to the name "Doukhobor" through the acts of the Sons of Freedom.

The committee is complying with this request as we are.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Budget night.

For the first time in Canada's history all major political parties and both leading racial groups are committed to conscription for war, Blair Fraser writes in a recent issue of Maclean's. The only question remaining in the issue is how soon it will be enforced.

The Red Cross general campaign starts here today with an objective of \$15,000. Disaster victims, crippled children, near drowning victims, patients requiring blood transfusions, hospitalized veterans, high way accident victims, school children and those far from other medical aid know how the money is used.

The First Canadian Army, which fought so courageously and efficiently in Northwest Europe, was formed in England on April 6, 1942, almost nine years ago. . . . Six years ago, on April 8, 1945, airborne troops of the Canadian Army dropped east of the Zuider Zee and on April 9 the First Canadian Army crossed the Ems at Meppen.

The names of 25,000 British women who gave their lives in the service of their country during the war of 1939-45 have been inscribed on pages embellished in burnished gold and bound in red morocco leather. With the names are citations of valour and self sacrifice. This national roll of honour will be exhibited soon in London and then taken on a tour of the nation.

Sales by Saskatchewan Wool Products corporation during the past fiscal year reached an all-time high of \$482,633, according to the corporation's annual report, tabled recently in the legislature. Despite record sales, the corporation suffered an operating loss of \$95,586.12 during the year, and a net loss of \$119,836.86, blamed partly on a "very sharp rise" in the price of raw wool on the world market.

In towns and cities people are so accustomed to furnace heating that they are liable to think the old coal and wood stove is a thing of the past. Not so by a long chalk. Furnaces, says the Bureau of Statistics, are used in about 45.5 per cent of the homes, while coal and wood stoves are used in 53.9 per cent. Only a tiny margin—less than one per cent of Canadian homes—rely entirely on central heating plants and fireplaces.

The credulous Missourians sent a postman all the way to Britain to "show me," how the people there lived and behaved under austerity regulations. "It's not what I saw," said Postman Kilby. "What made the greatest impression on me is something that I felt. These folks know the score, know the meaning of democracy and listen to every side of everything." In other words they have got character and vision, knowing enough not to let their country and their children down in time of trouble.

C. C. F. liquor profits for the year ended March 31, 1950 available for transfer to the Provincial Treasurer totalled \$8,890,998, according to the 25th annual report of the Saskatchewan Liquor Board. At the end of the fiscal year, 44 liquor stores and 34 beer and wine stores were in operation; and there were 499 licenced premises in hotels, 21 canteens and five clubs. Carrying out a new policy under which the board may now own the store premises it operates, buildings were constructed and opened at Regina, Moose Jaw, Melfort, Hudson Bay and Pelly. Thirteen liquor stores, as well as the Regina head office and warehouse, are now owned by the board.

Ludwig van Beethoven, one of the greatest of musical composers, died this date, 1827. He was taught the violin and clavier from the age of four. At seventeen he had a few lessons from Mozart and later placed himself under Haydn. When twenty-eight he gradually became deaf and for the last five years was totally so. His greater choice than his teachers of keys in modulations, his development of the minuet into the scherzo, his unique use and treatment of variations and his innovations in the construction of the introduction, coda, finale, and connective phrases of symphonies characterize his contribution to music.

PUBLIC FORUM

This column is open to the discussion by correspondents of questions of interest. The Guardian does not necessarily endorse the opinion of correspondents.

WEST POINT FERRIES

Sir, — I have been asked on different occasions since the report of the Royal Commission on Transportation has been made public, for some comments on same, with regard to the effect on our project, the West Point ferries. In answer I can only say that in view of present circumstances I consider the report, if carried out as laid down by the Commission, to be reassuring so far as our ferry service is concerned. While no recommendations were made with regard to either the Northumberland Ferries or the proposed West Point Ferries project, their conclusion sums up the situation in a nutshell.

Page 174 of report states: "In each of these cases the main question involves one of financial assistance. There is a body set up to deal with such matters namely the Canadian Maritime Commission. There is no doubt that if the public necessity and convenience warrant it, that body will deal with the respective applications on the merits of each case with due regard to the cost involved. No specific recommendations can be made either in the case of the present service being operated between Wood Island and Caribou service or in the case of the proposed service between West Point and Buctouche, projects of this kind should be considered by the Government of Canada in the light of the great importance of the tourist trade to P. E. I. as well as the amount of expenditure involved in the case of each project. The need for additional facilities at the terminal points is a matter for consideration of technical experts in the Department of Transportation."

As to my comment on the above, I think that if the Government at Ottawa views both projects in the light of convenience and necessity to the general public, and to the assistance asked for.

As for the Northumberland Ferries service, there can be no question regarding its advantage as is shown by the yearly report, which would have been given the assistance asked for. So far as our proposed service is concerned, we have much to gain especially in the tourist business, of which the Province claims four million dollars for 1950. I should like to see the amount of this that was left in the section in area of the proposed service, in spite of the fact that we have many of the most beautiful beaches and rivers in the Province. True we have not so many tourist accommodations nor will any one risk such expenditure on any large scale so long as we are considered the dead end of a long, long trail.

In conclusion I may say that the Commission has done its part in placing the matter clearly, that if the projects are considered a convenience and necessity, then the Government should view it in that light. So I suggest that every citizen endeavour to use his influence to make it plain that this is so. I am, Sir, etc., SANFORD PHILLIPS O'Leary, P. E. I.

THE OLD TOWN ROAD

Sir, — Tradition has it that a sea captain, landing at Malpeque, and wanting to go to Charlottetown, took a compass and an axe and cut his way through. Be that as it may, some one blazed the way that was followed for many years from Malpeque, one of the oldest settlements on the island, to Charlottetown, the capital and trading centre. The saga of men travelling that road to market with loads in the early days, their patience and their courage would make a most interesting story. They were strong men and had strong horses. For company, a small caravan would travel together. The days of hurry and speed had not arrived, not even dreamed of.

The Black Horse would be their first stopping place. Here they would feed their horses and have a cup of tea or something stronger. Margate, being a Methodist centre from early days, would be dry. They worked William Paine who built wagons to last a life time. Olinton next, and up the Hancy Hill and past Graham's Road School, that graduated its good and honest boys and girls into all parts of North America. Then, over those beautiful, wooded hills, by George Ward's, that famous nimbrod who never came from the woods empty-handed, on down to Brimstone Valley. A hundred years ago, especially on a Sunday, that was a tempting place; horses racing on the road, with bets on each and liquor and the dialect of Sodom flowing freely. It is said one could smell the brimstone and at times, tongues of blue flame could be seen licking along the ditches of the road.

After crossing the valley and up the hill, on the left, you came to what is called the Devil's Punch Bowl, out of whose keely mouth flowed a great flood of crystal clear water — a beautiful sight. The tradition is that one John McShine, coming from town with a keg of rum aboard, lost it at this point from his sleigh; rolling into the gulch, it broke and the result was an excellent drink for Flute.

The real place of interest on this road is the Presbyrian Church in North Granville, where for over one hundred years annually, English and Gaelic services have been held at communion time; and the Psalms of David are still sung to the note struck from the tuning fork. From this point through Keel's Cross and out to what is now the main road at Hazel Grove is one of the most interesting pieces of road in P. E. I. In 1872 Miss Flora MacDonald and I drove through this road with horse and wagon — not the Flora MacDonald who



The Age-Old Story

For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellency of the power may be of God and not of us.

We are troubled on every side, yet not distressed; we are perplexed, but not in despair. . . . Always bearing about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus, that the life also of Jesus might be made manifest in our body.

We having the same spirit of faith, according as it is written, I believed, and therefore have spoken; knowing that he which raised up the Lord Jesus shall raise us also by Jesus, and shall present us with you. . . . For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory; while we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for all things are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal.

danced with Bonnie Prince Charlie but another Flora just as fine. Such a road! Such hills! I don't think there is another stretch of road in this Province to compare with it, so picturesque and rugged. But now it is difficult to travel, even by horse and wagon.

At Hazel Grove the roughest part of the road is past and there was the Bagnall House where entertainment was had for man and beast. In that far-off day when there was no radio or phone and few newspapers, news was scarce and a traveller from Malpeque would come in like a man from a foreign country, brimming over with news; and over a meal many a story would be told. There was a warmth about the welcome the guest felt. He would start on his way rested.

Through Hunter River and Brookfield there were no regular taverns or road houses, but at Loyalist Corner was the Crabb House and at Milton the Curtis, where food and drink were provided. The traveller did not bend his elbow at all those places but they were there for the convenience and comfort of the public. The Tan Mill Hill at Brookfield was a landmark. Then the traveller knew how far away was Town.

A friend and I walked that road from Clifton one night in July. There was no thumping along the way and we carried nothing heavier than youthful hearts; but I have often thought of the men who travelled that road in the early days, many of them on foot. I remember, as a child, a man of 60 years, James Smart, an ex-British army officer who used to walk from Wigmore Road, every three months, on business to Charlottetown, with one Mr. Wise; and he back home the same day. Such a trip on foot was not uncommon in those far-off days. Another man, Tom Hiscott, of Stanley Bridge, travelled frequently, to Charlottetown and back the same day, hauling on a hand-sleigh a load of fish he had caught the day before in McGee's Pond, and carrying back a load of groceries. In these modern days of easy travel we hardly know what it is to be footsore and the great gladness of coming back to the welcome of home and rest.

Charlottetown! The City! I had heard so much about it, but had never been there till I began to grow up. Its streets, rough and unpaved, its stores with their attractive windows, its busy market place, with its prosperous looking people, selling all kinds of appetizing products of sea and land!

Our traders from Malpeque, after selling their goods, exchanging news, swapping stories, and loading up groceries, begin the homeward journey. Glad to be back home? Only those who have travelled long hours in a slow-moving rig know the keen, sweet joy of coming back home.

I am, Sir, etc., W. I. GREEN Stanley Bridge, P. E. I.

NO SMOKING

REGINA — (CP) — The Regina stadium has asked persons at hockey games to refrain from smoking. They found that when smoking is allowed the fans have to be turned out to clear the air; this cools the arena and puts extra strain on the heating plant.

Old Charlottetown

(And F. E. I.)

THE VELOCIPEDE

"The introduction of the Velocipede into this City, though only of recent date, is rapidly developing itself. Several of our young men have already become expert and graceful Velocipedists. The upper rooms of the Market and Temperance Halls have been converted into 'Rinks,' and are constantly open, we believe, from an early hour until ten or eleven o'clock at night.

"To those who have never seen two-wheeled Velocipedes in use, it seems surprising how the rider can keep his equilibrium. The principle of the thing, however, is just the same as that of the movement of a boy's hoop. All are aware of the fact that as long as the hoop revolves, its tendency to any lateral movement is almost suspended, the rule being that the greater the speed, the less difficulty in maintaining the upright position.

Barnum's Answer

(Napier Moore in the Financial Post) Newspapermen tell us that they still are hounded by self-styled "friends of the paper" who want free passes for this and that. When we were a city editor we were always being badgered by such characters. Not only could they well afford to pay for the tickets, but such was the desire to get something for nothing that occasionally they'd offer to send over a box of cigars or a bottle in appreciation of the courtesy. We have a notion that above all else they wanted to show off by casually remarking to their pals that they had press tickets. We never gave them any.

P. T. Barnum, the showman, was constantly besieged with requests for passes. He'd answer them with a small card reading:

Thou shalt not pass — Numbers XX. 18. Suffer not a man to pass — Judges III. 28. The wicked shall no more pass — Nahum I. 15. None shall pass — Isaiah XXXIV. 10. This generation shall not pass — Mark XIII. 30. Beware that thou pass not — 2nd Kings VI. 9. There shall no strangers pass — Amos III. 17. Neither any son of man pass — Jeremiah II. 43. No man may pass through because of the beasts — Ezekiel XIV. 15. Though they roar, yet they cannot pass — Jeremiah V. 22. So he paid the fare thereof and went — Jonah I. 3.

ORDER BEES NOW

REGINA — (CP) — Orders for package bees should be placed with beekeepers' supply houses now in order to obtain delivery during the last two weeks of April, said J. H. Arnott, provincial apiarist. He believes idle bee-keeping equipment will be put in service with the improved prices for honey.

H. J. A. BROWN, R.O.P.

Orthopedic CHIROPODIST Now Located in the NEW CURRIE BLDG Second Floor Cor. Kent & Queen Sts. Two Entrances

J.P. MacPherson & Son

177 QUEEN ST. Followed to identify clothing

Notes By The Way

From Kitchener comes a suggestion that Premier Frost of Ontario made some arrangement to pay a pension to Mrs. B. DeWeller, a widow of one of the earliest proponents of Hydro in Ontario. This seems like an excellent idea. Mr. DeWeller, who died in 1919, devoted himself so wholeheartedly to boosting Hydro and the St. Lawrence Waterway, that he died a poor man. His widow has managed to support herself through the intervening years, but now, at 82, she finds herself unable to work, and with rapidly dwindling savings. Surely a province which has benefited so much from Hydro can show some gratitude to the widow of a pioneer.

Tellson's Bank by Temple Bar was an old-fashioned place, even in the year one thousand seven hundred and eighty. It was very small, very dark, very ugly, very inconmodious. The partners in the house were proud of its smallness, proud of its darkness, proud of its ugliness, proud of its inconmodiousness. They were even boastful of its eminence in those particular, and were fired by an express conviction that, if it were less objectionable, it would be less respectable. Tellson's (they said) wanted no light, Tellson's wanted no embellishment. Noakes and Co.'s might, or Snooks Brothers might; but Tellson's, thank Heaven — Any one of these partners would have disinherited his son on the question of rebuilding Tellson's. (A Tale of Two Cities; Charles Dickens.)

The first comprehensive study on headaches, completed recently, among a group of 6,000 willing subjects was productive of quite a few surprises. One of the biggest was that more single persons have headaches than do married ones. You might have expected it to be the other way around but apparently there is something about wedded bliss that is soothing to the brain. Another unexpected result was that more young persons reported headaches than older ones. The discrepancy was a big one, too. Nearly eighty per cent of the twenty-year-olds interviewed said they had one or more headaches a week. Of the sixty-year-olds in the group, only 28.6 per cent were similarly afflicted. Education seemed to breed headaches, too, for 70.4 per cent of the college graduates suffered while only 38.8 per cent of those with little or no education complained. It is a bit difficult to draw definite conclusions from these findings except, perhaps, to

note how widespread headaches are among people of all ages and classes.—Boston Post.

Their names are more often than not hard to spell and hard to pronounce. What shall we make, for example, of Aja Vrsanova, champion figure-skater, who chose to remain in London rather than return to her native Czechoslovakia, made hateful to her by the Communist tyranny? The names Schejbal, Skala, Drobney, Matejcek, all of them Czechs in voluntary exile for conscience sake, are strange in American ears. One could list others, such as Kiraly, of Hungary, another skater; Gu-brinowicz, of Poland, former chief of protocol in the foreign office of Modelski, a military attache in the Polish embassy; Ferenc Nagy, former premier of Hungary; Okana Kasenkina, who risked death going back to Russia. There are still other names of which we shall never hear. The International Rescue Committee believes that as many as a thousand persons a week are escaping from Communist-dominated Europe into free Europe. — New York Times.

AN EPIGRAM Like thee I once have stemmed the sea of life, Like thee I have languish'd after empty joys, Like thee have labour'd in the stormy strife, Been grieved for trifles and amused with toys. Forget my frailties; thou art also frail: Forgive my lapses; for thine may'st fall: Nor read unmoved my artless tender tale. I was a friend, O man, to thee, to all. —James Beattie (1735—1800).

PROFITABLE SALT BEDS

STOCKHOLM — (CP) — Subterranean salt beds in southern Sweden have been subjected to test borings and it is estimated they will produce 108,000 tons annually, including 60,000 tons of common salt and 48,000 tons of rock salt.

PROFESSIONAL CARDS

Advertisement for professional services including Bell, Mathieson & Foster (Barristers, Solicitors, etc.), A. Walthen Gaudet, L.L.B. (Barrister, Solicitor, etc.), Dr. A. L. MacIsaac (Dentist), J. S. Taylor (Optometrist), Palmer & Haslam (Barristers, etc.), J. A. McGuigan (Barrister, Solicitor, etc.), John P. Nicholson, L.L.B. (Barrister, Solicitor, etc.), Gaudet & Hassard (Barristers and Solicitors), J. A. Carruthers, R.O. (Optometrist), H. E. Doane & Co. (Chartered Accountants), and MacDonald, Currie & Co. (Chartered Accountants).