THE GUARDIAN

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

TUESDAY, JULY 27, 1954

Salvage In Indo-China

In the closing phases of the Geneva conference it was Premier Mendes-France who, with his unbounded vigour and resolution, played the most striking role. A United Kingdom commentary, however, points out that it was Mr. Eden's special achievement that he induced the Communist delegates to recognize that the problems of Laos and Cambodia were different from the problem of Vietnam, and must be discussed and settled on a different and separate basis.

The weakness of the French position seemed to offer small chance of successful negotiation. It seemed that there was little to be expected but a Communist demand for the total surrender of Indo-China. The concentration of Vietnam pledges the Communist powers to refrain from intervening in the internal affairs of Laos and Cambodia and to leave their peoples to live their own peaceful lives.

This may not, indeed, be fully honoured but it is at least a much more satisfactory solution than the surrender of the whole area. The non-Communist powers can still, by standing shoulder to shoulder on vital points, prevent Communist gains being unduly exploited. The shooting down of a British civil aircraft and the subsequent Chinese apology are indicative both of the constant threat and the need for firmness.

"Brains Unlimited"

In an address before the Ontario Educational Association, published in the current issue of Canadian Education, Dr. Sydney Smith, President of the University of Toronto, makes a striking statement. "This country," he says, "is expanding in population but it is short of teachers at every educational level; it is determined to improve the people's health but it is short of doctors, dentists and nurses; it is attempting to develop and conserve its natural resources but it is short of engineers; it is deeply concerned with its spiritual needs but it is short of clergy; it is conscious of a renaissance in the creative arts but it is short of creative artists; it is growing in its internal life and also as a member of the family of nations, but it is short of public servants, in the sense that at various levels of government it is often difficult to find able men and women who are willing to stand for public office. Canada needs 'Brains Unlimited'—they are the most valuable 'natural resource' we possess, worthy of our best 'development and conservation program'."

Dr. Smith referred to the well-known organization "Ducks Unlimited, Inc.", the purpose of which is to conserve the supply of wild ducks that fly down to the southern States in the fall and up to the Arctic Circle in the spring. "Ducks Unlimited" promotes international co-operation to ensure that the ducks are not slaughtered indiscriminately, and that they are protected, particularly while they are nesting and breeding.

"I realize," he said, "that the analogy between ducks and the brains of your pupils is, to say the least, inelegant. For many practical purposes one duck is as good as another (although the ornithologists might dispute that statement) but one brain is not as good as another. Anyone who assumes, in the name of democracy, that for practical or other purposes one brain is as good as another is making a false assumption. It is well to recognize frankly that no amount of egalitarian sentiment can make one brain as good as another, and that an educational system based on egalitarian principles is foredoomed to failure. The true democratic principle is equality of opportunity, which is entirely different; indeed, it is opposed to egalitarianism. Equality of opportunity means that the best brains must be afforded just as great an opportunity to develop to their full capacity as the slow."

And it is just here, Dr. Smith complains, that our modern educationists are falling down. In many schools the bright boy or girl is the most underprivileged pupil there. He is in a large class, and the teacher spends over half the time repeating, for the benefit of the average or dull, points which he has already grasped. He is bored. He becomes mentally lazy. His mind is not being enriched. One result is that many of the best students leave school before completing Grade XIII, now that high-paying jobs are available. They may get side-tracked from the basic mental and cultural disciplines into vocational and commercial courses, and waste years of their school time acquiring skills that they could pick up in later life in a matter of weeks or months.

One factor of the utmost importance, Dr. Smith emphasizes—particularly in the multiple-purpose schools that are on the increase—is to see that the gifted and superior students do their work in the collegiate sections of those schools, and not drift into vocational courses. He was disturbed to note the evidence of this trend in rural schools in Ontario; to see in the scholarship lists fewer names from the smaller centres, and to find that the university population is becoming more and more urban in character.

As a practical measure Dr. Smith suggests, wherever possible, separate classes for the brilliant, the average, and the dull. Where this is not feasible, there should at least be some division so that the best students do not have to mark time while the slowest attempt to catch up. The idea that academic subjects are only "college-preparatory" he denounces as an insidious libel on our whole educational system. "It is a far cry from the ideal of democracy to reserve for those who are going on to further studies the benefits of sound training in languages, mathematics, science and history, which should be freely given to all who are capable of profiting from it, and which produces citizens who can properly be called educated men and women. . . . Through history and literature, through the habitual vision of greatness, it is possible to convey something of the sense of service, the spirit of dedication, that has animated the finest and best individuals of every race at every time. Particularly in the story of those times and places when the human spirit has overflowed in great creative activity and great adventure — such as Elizabethan England or fifth-century Athens—there is a contagious enthusiasm for living life in a high key, and the teacher who feels it can transmit—not to all, perhaps, but certainly to the best students—an inspiration, an enjoyment, an intellectual curiosity, and a yearning for excellence that will stand them in good stead for the rest of their lives."

EDITORIAL NOTES

The Duke of Edinburgh arrives in Canada on Wednesday. This will literally be a flying visit. It is to be hoped that it will prove to be the prototype of frequent, relatively informal, visits of members of the Royal Family by which they will come to know this country better than is possible in a single grand tour.

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The United States Congress has formally invited Lieut. Genevieve de Galard-Terraube, the nurse-heroine of Dien Bien Phu, to visit that country. She is the first woman to receive such an invitation and it is an indication of how that heroic but unsuccessful defence impressed the American people.

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Premier Matheson's appeal for the collection in one place of the trophies won by the artillery of this Province should evoke a considerable response. The exigencies of service have temporarily eliminated the artillery branch from establishment and it is most desirable that the achievements of Island gunners should be publicly commemorated.

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Alexander Dumas, fils, was born this date 1824. Unlike his father whose life and work show riotous prodigality, he was essentially Parisian and his work shows minuteness and delicacy. His novels are not remarkable but almost all his seventeen plays are masterpieces of construction and style. Each of them gave rise to wide discussion which he comments upon in his celebrated prefaces.

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National and international power blocks, political systems and policies provide the material for much of the news but none of them are probably as important as the report from Paris that the population of the world has more than doubled in 100 years. According to French government statistics there were 1,160,000,000 of us in 1850 and 2,500,000,000 today. The present rate of increase is 30,000,000 a year.

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The United States awakened about a year ago to the desirability of investment in Canada. Now Britain has come to realize the same thing. At any rate the British magazine "Scope" has devoted an entire number to the part British industry and finance is playing and can play in the development of this country. In a Foreword the Chancellor of the Exchequer states of such participation: "We are for it. We allow it as many dollars as we can afford."

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.

BACK TO P. E. I.

Sir,—Allow me to congratulate you on the general ensemble of your paper; the editorial page in particular. It is strong in history; I think historical references embellish any literary effort. The article on Scotland's "Tartan Export" last week is an example. Its historical background adds glamour. "Notes By The Way" are a fine selection; Cardinal McGuigan, Rev. Dr. Pidgeon, "Observer", F. H. MacArthur, Dr. J. A. Clark and others are in a high category—besides the "free writers" who often adorn The Forum with literary gems, both commendatory and disparaging, as the spirit moves.

Getting back to material affairs, Island farmers may consider themselves lucky. The crops look 100 percent better here than in any place from Edmonton East. Many of the prairie fields were "afloat" (pardon the paradox). Much grain just coming up. Looks bad for prairie farmers. The faster growing season may help some; they have nearly two hours more sunlight each day. We noted a very few good patches of potatoes in Quebec, and the solid fields of clover and luxuriant fields of potatoes on the run from Borden to Kensington were glorious to behold.

I am, Sir, etc.,
J. PENDERGAST

Kensington, P. E. I.

RED CHINA AND THE U. N.

Sir,—There has been a far-fetched attempt to sell the reading public the idea that the Churchill-Eden efforts to obtain a U. N. membership for Red China are based on the hope of eventually divorcing Peiping from Moscow. What a hope!

Between the years 1921 and 1935 three such attempts were ruthlessly crushed by Russia. And now, Sir Winston and Mr. Eden are working on a repeat performance. The English press is hewing so closely to the line laid down by these statesmen that it is withholding from its readers any information that does not fit in with the project. Dr. W. G. Goddard, former member of the Foreign Office in Canberra, recently arrived in England with the very latest information about Free China and found the "Paper Curtain" drawn in front of him. He said: "I have been forced to the conclusion that the daily press here does not want the people of Britain to know the facts about Free China."

Supposing Mao does become a Tito, will that make the Red Chinese turn white? Has Yugoslavia's break with Russia helped the West? Mr. Budenz answers that when he says: "Should the West and Russia meet in conflict, Yugoslavia under Tito will most certainly not be on our side. Tito is the worst insurance risk the West can take. . . . The Communist line today is negotiation . . . Any negotiation which involves recognition of Red China is tragedy."

Mr. Eden may fete him in London, Mr. Attlee may spend his holidays with him and Eleanor Roosevelt may weep on his shoulder as she deplores little Joe McCarthy's naughtiness, but Tito still remains an avowed Communist, a fierce persecutor of Christians.

U. S. Senate leader Knowland recently put in the congressional record a document which he described as an outline of Mao Tze-tung's memorandum on the new program for world revolution. One paragraph of that document reads thus: "Britain must be placated by being convinced there is possibility of settling the major issues between the East and the West. Opportunities for trade will have a great influence on the British mind."

Some of the things certain observers interpret as symptoms of an incipient estrangement between Peipin and Moscow are so puerile as to cast doubt on the good faith of the commentators. An ever-timely tip to readers is: "Beware of false prophets."

I am Sir, etc.,
TOM MIX

Charlottetown.

Old Charlottetown and P. E. I.

DELEGATES AT QUEBEC

The Island delegates to the Confederation Conference at Quebec in October, 1864, appear to have made a very favorable impression, judging from the following comment which appeared in the Montreal Gazette at the time and was quoted in the local press:

"The group which sat to the right and left of Colonel Gray, the gallant chief of the Prince Edward Island deputation, fairly represented every class in that tight little Island. Col. Gray himself, a colonist by birth, and one proud and jealous of his birthright, connected by family and regimental ties with some of the first military reputations in the Empire, was, for his fine personal qualities, and especially by all those who remembered what an admirable presiding officer he made at Charlottetown and Halifax, looked up to with a feeling almost of veneration. Mr. Palmer in all subjects connected with his own profession, Mr. Pope in point of general and varied information, Mr. McDonald and Mr. Haviland, Mr. Coles and Mr. Whelan, compared favorably with the general composition of the Conference. The latter gentleman, Mr. Whelan, is said to be one of the best public speakers in the Lower Provinces; he certainly is one of the best writers, as the pages of the Charlottetown Examiner sufficiently testify."

The Neighbors — By George Clark

"I bet my old man answers this. I'm writing him I landed a seven foot shark."

NOTES BY THE WAY

The new streamlined dollar has certainly got a fast getaway — Brandon Sun.

Travel broadens all right. The problem is how to slim down afterwards. —Hamilton Spectator.

Women certainly can keep a secret. Look at how many husbands think they are boss of the family. — Toronto Star.

"An authority on home problems has aptly described telephonitis as an occupational disease of adolescence."—St. Thomas Times-Journal.

"Any time the British run short of something to worry about there's always Egypt and the Suez Canal." —Ottawa Journal.

The most used word in the language is "I" and the most philosophy is "Gimme". —London Free Press.

A judge remarks that wives are happier if they're always told the truth. Seemingly, asking questions is the road to unhappiness. — Catham News.

Adam was a fortunate man in at least one respect—his wife couldn't compare him to other men she might have married. —Country Gentleman.

About the last mystery father holds for the children is when they wonder how on earth he heard the answer to their brand-new riddle forty years ago. — Edmonton Journal.

"No" is never a pleasant word— and most especially not when it apears in front of "vacancy" on a motel sign at dusk on a hot day with a couple of wornout kids in the back seat. — Hamilton Spectator.

"Spanish - speaking Planes Stop Here"— headline in Brownsville, Texas, Herald. We'll believe it when we hear a plane say something in Spanish. —Kingston Whig - Standard.

Although we cannot speak from expert knowledge as doctors do, we are inclined to agree with the French Academy of Medicine that a quart of wine daily is too much for children —Peterborough Examiner.

A visitor has been making merry with English spelling. One of his suggestions is that "fish" ought to be spelt 'ghoti.'' He argues that the 'gh' is pronounced as in "rough," the 'o" as in 'women" and the 'ti" as in "nation." So obviously "'ghoti" spells "fish."— The Labor Leader.

When an Englishman was knocked down by a bicyle, and lost his sense of taste in consequence, a judge awarded him damages of $4,500. Next time somebody accuses you of having no taste, you will know how much you are out of pocket. — Peterborough Examiner).

The Department of External Affairs should seriously consider giving priority in its appointments to consuls and ambassadors who have a bevy of marriageable daughters. A triple wedding such as the Peruvian Embassy staged recently in Ottawa does more to establish cordial relations between nations than any amount of more orthodox procedures. —Toronto Saturday Night.

Excerpt from "The Way We Live Now" by Honor Croome: "The representative man of welfare economics wakes every morning stark naked in a vacuum . . . . and proceeds to conjure up, in suitable proportions, the components of whatever standard of living his total income makes possible at current prices."—Lloyd's Bank Review.

We see that in Leicester, England, it has rained milk — a piece of intelligence in which we find a peculiar comfort (and to the devil with the pragmatists who will be quick to point out that it was probably just the result of cement dust blown skyward from a builder's yard). It suggests that meteorological phenomena are at last getting back to a good old-fashioned normalcy. — Hamilton Spectator.

This land has a desperate need of roads, both local roads and good highways. We must have them to break down isolation. We want them for sound economic reasons and we must have them for good social reasons. We are not getting them as fast as we need them. Are we getting them as fast as we can afford them? Should we do better to defer some other projects to allow us to get quicked development of road communications? — St. John's News.

"A church directly across the highway from a country club displays a large sign reading: 'Need exercise? Try kneeling.' " —Guelph Mercury.

A survey shows that homes with children are most likely to have television sets. Always the best excuse too for grown-ups buying electric trains. —Hamilton Spectator.

The only time a traffic light shows green in both directions is during the testimony or two drivers who have had a collision.— Galt Reporter.

It's happened again — the Royal Academy hung a picture wrong-side-up and no one noticed it for a week. The artist wasn't offended, though. He admitted it looked just as well that way. — Cornwall Standard-Freeholder.

Guatemala is cleaning up the mess caused in recent fighting. Can't very well have another decent revolution with things as untidy as they are now. —Hamilton Spectator.

Another Stampede is over and another record attendance in the book. The next attendance record should mean reaching the 500,000 mark. Half a million people in six days is quite an impressive figure for a community of this size. — Calgary Herald.

raincoat fabrics that "breathes" has been developed. It permits passage of air, but not water. In one respect, however, such a coat will be no improvement over present types. When it rains at 8 a.m. it will still be hanging in the office and the days it rains at 5 p.m. it will be in the hall closet at home.— Detroit Free Press.

Indications are that the familiar exhaust pipe sticking out of the back of present-day cars will be missing on some models in 1955. An auto exhaust system has been developed which releases the gases underneath the car near the centre of the floor and thus does away with the exhaust pipe. There still seems hope for the automatic car which will overcome the human element, and therefore prevent accidents. — St. Catharines Standard.

A visitor in Boston explored the city afoot. This is to say the man from Sydney walked. Is there a better way to become acquainted with a city? The Hub of New England has been suspected of seeming the hub of the universe to its inhabitants. Takes prowling to discover why they think so, if indeed they do. Sight-seeing wagons take you on prescribed itineraries where one may not care to go. The routine spiels of the guides are replete with statistics you promptly forget. The gawking pasengers are looked upon askance by the smug natives as so many outlanders of a peculiar species, as undoubtedly they are. It's better to walk and pretend you are a Bostonian although what advantage there could be in that might be difficult to explain. The pedestrian visitor stares in a manner that identifies him to every cop he passes as a stranger in town.—Sydney Post-Record.

The Poet's Corner

AFTER FINAL FAILURE

No man can do more than endure his days
And become in the end his own interpreter,
Describe the self and its secret wandering here,
Bewildered, forever baffled, through the mind's maze,
Tell the taste of the bitter root he has bitten,
Foretell the terrible adder and its sting,
Strike from stone the likeness of some sensate thing,
Tongue with intelligence words read or written.

Cast life on canvas, create the certain note,
All these are images of himself alone
Whose pain and passion he can not keep, nor own,
Whose deeds of the stilled hand and the throttled throat
Belong to the living, to stir, when he is lost,
Others, or startle his forgotten ghost.

—Carleton Drewry in the New York Herald Tribune.

The Passing Scene

By Observer

VOICES FROM THE PAST

An American visitor to this country is quoted as saying, "I believe there is a good deal of sentiment in Canada at the present time for eventual merger with the United States". What part of the country he visited and just how he arrived at his conclusion he does not say.

There is nothing especially newsworthy about this opinion which, perhaps, is why the item was tucked away in a remote corner of a large metropolitan newspaper. Every now and then somebody, usually an American, brings the matter up, and it has been going on for a long, long time.

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Just after I noticed the item I happened to be rummaging through a collection of old magazines published in the United States in 1905 and I came across an article entitled "Canada's attitude toward us". It was written by an American journalist who had submitted to some 300 leading Canadian citizens this question: "If Canada could be merged into the United States with no loss of self-respect and with no friction with England; not annexed, nor absorbed, nor swallowed up, but completely merged so that all residents of the Continent above the Mexican line should meet upon a plane of absolute equality as citizens of one country. Under these conditions would you be in favour of this complete uniting of the two nations?"

The great majority of those questioned sent replies. Only one replied in the affirmative and that one, for some reason, omitted to sign his name. All the others were against the proposal in varying degrees of conviction. It is interesting—at least I find it so—to read what those prominent Canadians of fifty years ago had to say about Canada's growing nationhood and their reasons for believing that Canadians would be better off if left "to paddle their own canoe". None of the answers was a plain yes or no and some of them were quite lengthy; the best I can do here is to quote excerpts from a few of the more interesting ones.

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Sir Charles Tupper, former Prime Minister and Conservative leader, then living in retirement, had this to say: "I may say that under no circumstances would I favour a union with the United States, and this is not because of any hostile feeling toward them, but because of the greater advantage of living under the British form of Government."

Sir Mackenzie Bowell, another former Prime Minister, took a similar view. "The general desire", he said, "is for a closer union with the mother country".

John Charlton, M.P. for the Ontario riding of Norfolk, based his negative answer on Canada's disadvantageous trade relations with the United States; "The United States has been hostile in her tariff treatment of Canada for 40 years. Our relations with Great Britain are nine times greater than with the United States. It is foolish to talk about merger while these conditions exist". Senator W. Owens wrote in much the same vein, to wit: "If any such sentiment (for merger) did exist at one time it was effectually extinguished by the hostile tariff your people raised against us. While Canadians are in favour of reciprocity they are not in favour of political annexation".

Another Senator, the Hon. James McMullin of Mount Forest, Ontario, went into other matters. "Our laws", he wrote, "are better than yours. In many of your cities mob rule appears to be gaining ground. There is no restraint, apparently, in your labour organizations; your strike problem is one that Canadians have no desire to get mixed in. All in all, we much prefer our own political system to yours".

William Ross, M.P. for Halifax, was stoutly opposed to merger in any form, as evidenced by these remarks: "There are many things in the American form of government that I should be sorry to see applied to this Dominion, such as the vetoing power of your President and the selection of judges by election, both of which are governed by anything but a sound principle. Your dealing with negroes is utterly abhorrent to our ideas".

William F. MacLean, editor of the Toronto World, was particularly outspoken in his opposition. "I have stated on several occasions", he wrote, "that it is in the interests of the whole Continent that there should be at least two free and independent countries on the Continent working out two experiments of government, rather than one crass Republic dominating the whole. Your government is immeasurably bad, and frankly I must tell you that I see no mitigation of the situation except through another civil war. England, and Canada after her, are showing all the world how public ownership and social legislation can improve the condition of humanity. No merger for me, but on the contrary, complete integrity for Canada".

Senator F. P. Thompson of Fredericton allowed himself the luxury of a little sarcasm in making this reply: "The question, as put by you, would undoubtedly work out to the lion-and-lamb solution—the lamb inside the lion as the ultimate result. It would be a hilarious idiocy to waste a thought on your fanciful dream".

The Age Old Story

The Lord bringeth the counsel of the heathen to nought; he maketh the devices of the people of none effect. The counsel of the Lord standeth for ever, the thoughts of his heart to all generations.

ROYAL TRAVELLER

Queen Victoria was the first British sovereign to travel by train—from Slough to London June 13, 1842.

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