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Canada's New Role

There was a significant item in the news reports from Washington this week. U.S. State Secretary Herter will fly to Ottawa on Saturday, it stated, for a round of discussions with Prime Minister Diefenbaker and External Affairs Minister Green before going on to attend the adjourned Big Four conference at Geneva. The Canadian Government is known to feel strongly on the need for exhausting every possible basis of equitable East-West agreement before Western negotiations with Russia are broken off. Mr. Herter, it is indicated, will be prepared to give Canada's views earnest attention.

This underlines a relatively new concept of partnership as it exists among NATO powers. Up to the end of the First World War, there was little questioning of the right of the "Great Powers" to settle world problems among themselves. Even the Treaty of Versailles was on the old pattern. There were some 30 allies. They were allowed to present their various claims and cases; but the final text was drawn up by the "Big Three"—Wilson, Lloyd George and Clemenceau. The other allied delegations were shown it 24 hours before it was handed to the Germans.

It is now an accepted rule that, in any matter which directly or even indirectly concerns the free world alliance, no one power or group of powers inside it should act without prior consultation and agreement on main lines of policy with all the members. The only exception to the rule could be where the situation is one of extreme emergency and action must be taken without consultation; but these cases are few and far between. Especially since last November, when the Soviet Government suddenly created the "Berlin crisis", there has been a continuing process of consultation in various ways between the NATO partners.

So it is not merely a courtesy call that Mr. Herter will make at Ottawa this weekend. Canada, moreover, has been able to play a prominent part in reaching means of arbitration in international disputes. American state department officials feel it is possible that she may again offer proposals helpful in the new round of Geneva bargaining. At any rate, they have made it clear that an exchange of views on the Geneva situation will undoubtedly be the first item of business on Mr. Herter's arrival.

Fiscal Pact Revision

Neither the finance ministers' meetings at Ottawa this week, nor the meetings of the continuing committee on fiscal relations which are to follow, will change the present tax-sharing agreements in any way, but they are expected to provide the basis of a new formula that will, eventually, result in Canadians in every part of the country having a similar standard of public services.

That, we maintain, is the only result that will justify the elaborate program of conferences that has now been launched. It will be the responsibility of the plenary session of Premiers and the Prime Minister of Canada, when it is finally called. It is hoped to have this "summit" conference some time this year, though no definite assurance has been given on this point. But we shall be disappointed if it is delayed unduly, and if it does not measure up to the expectations that have been raised.

Finance Minister Fleming has repeatedly emphasized the very wide scope of the present inquiries, and Prime Minister Diefenbaker, by indicating some of the flaws in the present tax-sharing arrangements, has spoken very much in line with representations which have been made from this Province. Speaking two years ago in the Commons when the present agreement was under discussion, he said that while it was better than it had been in the past, "it still constitutes a failure to realize that under our Constitution the provinces were never intended to be beggars."

"The provinces," Mr. Diefenbaker pointed out at that time, "have responsibilities, the provinces have fields of action, and the concentration of power and authority in the Federal Government with respect to taxation has had an adverse effect." He referred specifically to the need for grants in aid of education and a system whereby the municipalities would be assured of a reasonable opportunity to discharge their responsibilities.

This statement does not cover the whole field, but it does coincide with the main conference objective as outlined in our Island brief this week, namely of "assessing the needs of the provinces and arriving at a solution that will enable all governments to discharge their constitutional responsibilities."

Farm Labor Shortage

Politicans who seek to make capital out of unemployment figures would be more favorably regarded if they also publicized the number of jobs that are open but unacceptable to those lining up for unemployment relief. An Ontario exchange notes, for example, that in Essex and Kent counties farmers have been forced to destroy their sugar beet crops and plant soybeans in their place because of a "critical farm labor shortage." Farmers report that attempts to recruit help in Quebec and from the ranks of the unemployed in major Ontario centres have largely proved unsuccessful.

In the Maritimes, also, farmers have had difficulty in obtaining hired help, and in the West the seasonal farm labor shortage is proverbial. It would seem that any able-bodied man who wants work today in Canada can find it. He may not find it in the community of his choice or in the line of work in which he is best qualified; nor may he get the wages to which he thinks he is entitled. That doesn't alter the fact that jobs are going a-begging. The "critical farm labor shortage" is but one evidence of this.

Unemployment insurance is a necessary and humane system for cushioning unemployment against the pay cheques of the workers. It was never intended to encourage laziness and destroy the desire to seek work, or to provide politicians with fictitious arguments against the government of the day for not creating opportunities for breadwinning. And so far as farm labor is concerned, it not only offers sustenance to the worker, but activity far more conducive to health and wellbeing than indoor employment in sweltering factories or offices.

EDITORIAL NOTES

The Junior Farmers turned out in strength on Wednesday for their annual field day at the Experimental Farm. Their fine organization is the best answer to those are sceptical about the future of agriculture in this Province.

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Great industrial advantages are expected to accrue from the $4,000,000 power grid linking the electrical power of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, which will be in operating by December. Hope is held out that this Province may share in the benefits at some future date, "if and when it becomes necessary and feasible." Why all the circumlocution?

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The Federated Womens Institutes of Canada are winding up their convention by a visit to Green Gables today. The delegates have enjoyed every minute of their stay on the Island and many of them are planning a return visit next summer. The welcome mat is always out for them, individually or collectively.

• • •

Chicago's tumultuous welcome to Queen Elizabeth and Prince Philip has made world headlines. According to press reports, it was the greatest turnout in the city's history, outstripping the triumphs of Truman and MacArthur in the last twelve years. The bands played "Rule Britannia" most of the day and every streethawker was selling Union Jacks—right in what was once the heart of mid-western isolationism and anti-British sentiment. It was a magnificent triumph for Her Majestyty, and she appears to have enjoyed every minute of her stay.

WHAT DOES HE HAVE UP HIS SLEEVE

P.M.'s At Close Quarters

By Patrick Nicholson

This column recently referred to Gilbert Champagne. That unsung veteran of the prime Minister's office here, although himself unknown to most Canadians, has probably known intimately more prime ministers than any other person in Canada over the past half century.

Since 1917 Gilbert has worked as confidential messenger in the office of Canada's Prime Ministers or of the Opposition Leaders. There he has been able to observe our prominent politicians at very close quarters and form intimate opinions—which the confidential aide keeps confidentially to himself.

But when he is in expansive mood, he can give vivid thumbnail sketches of those great men for whom he has worked.

His first boss, our World War I Prime Minister Sir Robert Borden, he recalls as "a very great national leader".

UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS

Of R.B. Bennett, Gilbert says: "He was a very kind man. If he could have shown the public kindness which he felt and exercised privately, and his sympathy for the unemployed, things would have been better for him politically. I remember how every nickel of his pay as Prime Minister was often scattered in tens and fives and even in two dollar bills, in envelopes to strangers who wrote him pathetic letters from Alberta, Ontario, Quebec, Vancouver—in fact from all over. He was a very hard worker, and spent long hours in his office; I guess because he had lots of problems."

"Arthur Meighen was the ablest of my former bosses, and a great statesman. He could also quote Shakespeare from page one to the end. If he could have shown politically the ability which his shyness often hid, he would have been a very great politician too. I think his heavy smoking betrayed his shyness; he used to smoke as many as three packages a day, I think, and I recall the brand was named "Millbank" Of them all, Mr. Meighen alone was the father of small children while Prime Minister, I remember him bringing in two little ones to his office, they were about seven and eight."

"Mackenzie King was the latest of them all to get into his office each morning; in fact he often worked at home. The present Prime Minister is the earliest arrival."

"Mackenzie King was a very hard man to work for," Gilbert mused. "He was always absolutely punctual, and life worked like a clock with him, but he was not very warm."

CHRISTMAS CHEER

"I remember one Christmas, he said to me: 'Gilbert, you don't celebrate Christmas like the rest of us. Will you go to the Post Office on Christmas Day to collect my mail and bring it to my study. So I delivered his mail to him in his study. He shook my hand and wished me a Merry Christmas."

"Then as I was leaving his home, Laurier House, his Scotch cook Mary popped her head out of the kitchen and asked me to join the staff in a cup of tea and piece of Christmas cake. While we were sitting eating, Mister King came in; he walked round the table shaking each girl by the hand and squeezing a folded five dollar bill into her hand as he spoke his good wishes. Suddenly he noticed me; very surprised he was, and said 'Oh I've wished you a merry Christmas already" and walked out. Presently he sent a message into the kitchen, telling me to go to his study. There he gave me five dollars too."

"But the next day," continued Gilbert, "an order came round saying that none of his office staff were to enter the kitchen at his home, nor to accept refreshment there unless invited by the Prime Minister. I felt sorry that I could not give him back his tea and cake, but I was afraid he might ask for his five spot back," ended Gilbert with his infectious laugh.

And so the reminiscences go on. Gilbert will, very rarely, talk with his personal knowledge of people who to most of us are now only statues on Parliament Hill, but who were once warm flesh and sometimes over-heated blood to their confidential messenger.

The Sea Also Has A Crust

By Thomas R. Henry
North American Newspaper Alliance

The sea, like the earth, has a crust. It is a thin surface layer of water floating on water, averaging about 200 feet deep all over the world, continuously renewed by outpourings of rivers from the continents, by rain and snow. It is all the same kind of water—wind tossed, wave tossed, tide tossed, thoroughly mixed all the time. The temperature is the same from top to bottom.

Within this sea crust live 90 percent of the fish and most other ocean animals and plants. It is the only part of the sea in which man has had much interest throughout history.

Just beneath is a thick layer, like the layer of rock under the crust of the earth, in which temperature decreases and density increases rapidly with depth. This so-called thermocline, or pycnocline, is one of the major oceanographic findings of the international geophysical year, as described in a bulletin issued by the national research council.

It separates the surface layer from the layers of the intermediate and deep water, the latter extending to the ocean bottom, in which there are only gentle changes of temperature and salinity, the density increasing only slightly with depth.

Up and down movements of water within these deep and intermediate ocean strata are much slower than in the crust and horizontal currents are very sluggish.

The pycnocline, with its heavier water, acts as a partial barrier between crust and sea depths. Being water, however, it naturally is more permeable than its counterpart under the crust of the earth. There is some interchange both of animals and of chemical elements. The continued existence of some sea resources depends on this interchange.

SPECIAL SIGNIFICANCE

Knowledge of the pycnocline is of special significance, the research council report stresses, with present proposals to dump radioactive wastes into the deep seas. The wastes will largely be shut off from the "crust" for decades, perhaps for several centuries. During this time there will be a decrease of radioactivity because of decay and dilution due to slow disperson by bottom currents.

Just now it seems likely, the report says, that several tons of radioactive fission products—the amount likely to be produced for some years to come—can be deposited with reasonable safety in the ocean depths. The sea crust will protect life on earth.

SAFETY NOT ASSURED

But when it comes to the thousands of tons a year predicted for the future, safety is not so assured. Far reaching investigations are essential, it is stressed, to learn just how these waste materials behave in water solutions and the amount of radioactivity which eventually, perhaps within a century, will find its way into the crust.

Adenauer's Intransigence

By Alan Harvey
Canadian Press Staff Writer

That craggy Gibraltar of a statesman, Konrad Adenauer, is giving Britain's foreign office a few moments of anxiety.

At a time when British diplomats are exuding what is described as qualified optimism about the prospects of a summit meeting, the doughty old West German chancellor continues to express distrust of British intentions.

Despite recent quiet efforts to convince the 83 - year - old Adenauer that Britain's diplomatic flexibility on the German question is not exactly the same thing as selling out to the Russians, the chancellor remains as unbending as ever.

His intransigent attitude, which some British officials describe as "obsessional," disturbs the foreign office in its otherwise serene approach to a summit meeting.

SEE SUMMIT

Broadly, the feeling here is that the resumption of the Big Four foreign ministers' talks in Geneva next week will set the stage for a top-level meeting, perhaps in August or September.

Adenauer also has caused pain and surprise in Whitehall by harping on the theme that the British people as a whole are hostile to the West Germans.

Such charges cause bewilderment in London. Officially it is felt that Britons are more or less indifferent to the Germans. If there is any hostility, it is confined to a fairly small minority. Britons are too busy to worry about such things.

Adenauer's reiteration of the rather weary complaint against Britain is believed to be causing embarrassment to his own officials who are urging the chancellor to accept an invitation to visit London in hopes of patching the quarrel. So far, Adenauer has not indicated he will go.

It is said that Prime Minister Macmillan, confronted with an example of some particularly unyielding obstinacy by President de Gaulle of France, good naturedly shakes his head and says: "Good old Charlie!"

In the case of Adenauer, the good nature may be wearing a little thin.

In The Face Of Madness

Financial Post, Toronto

The absolute folly, the utter madness, of nuclear warfare has been presented for the first time in all its full, calm, terrifying detail.

It is the most appalling story of death and destruction ever imagined.

Its possibility is invited by the unhappy lethargy of the public and by the attitudes of the military strategists who, it appears, don't want their big war plans interfered with.

A subcommittee of the U.S. Atomic Energy Committee heard that a "limited" attack on the U.S.—and by consequence on Canada—would mean death for some 50 million people, ghastly injury for another 20 million, destruction for all cities of any size; fire storms that would require nature 1,000 years to recover from; defective people for 30 generations.

OTHER ATTRACTIONS

Despite this appalling report, more headlines at the time of its publication were devoted to the doings of union racketeers and movie actresses.

The fact that any one person can do so little in the face of international imponderables and horrendous weapons, helps account for public lethargy.

But the disinterest shown by some military people about the fate of our population and the country itself is a stark reminder that violence is their business. The generals and admirals are reluctant to speak out clearly, say reports from the U.S., about the effects of nuclear warfare in case it would arouse public opinion against the present nature of U.S. defence policy.

If the military are reluctant to look at the realities of nuclear war, the U.S. administration appears no more concerned with reappraisal. Apparently to calm any public unrest over what could happen here, Neil H. McElroy, U.S. Secretary of Defence, stated a day or so ago that both the U.S. and the U.S.S.R. are behind schedule in perfecting a combat-ready, intercontinental ballistic missile.

But Mr. McElroy, what's important is not when an effective nuclear war could be fought, it's what is involved in one.

If anything more were needed to show why war is no longer a practicable or tolerable way of settling international disputes, this is it.

Discouraging as it may be when dealing with a foe such as Russia, the U.S. as a leader of the west has simply got to develop more patience and skill in its attempts to negotiate diplomatically with the communist world.

It is no longer possible for the U.S. to remain happily indifferent to the arts and skills of diplomacy

How Motorists Can Stay Awake

By Herman N. Bundesen, M. D.

MID-MORNING and mid-afternoon are the danger times for drivers during long motor trips. These are the "drowsy periods," the hours during which tiring monotony is likely to catch up with you. It's the time when highway accidents are most likely to occur.

Not only are you less alert, but the other drivers are under the same strain and it's their drowsy time, too.

HOW TO STAY AWAKE

Now I have repeatedly given you suggestions on how to keep from falling asleep while driving. Best way, of course, is to stop along the roadside every hour or at least every two hours.

Get out of the car and stretch for a few minutes. Exercise a bit if you feel like it. And, if at all possible, wipe your face with a damp wash cloth. Washing your face in cold water is even better.

While driving, you can glance from side to side frequently, instead of peering ahead constantly. Don't, however, relax your road vigil. And it's a good idea to watch other drivers more attentively, too, during these especially hazardous periods.

REAR VIEW MIRROR

Glancing into the rear view mirror every so often is also a good idea. Not only does it let you know what is behind you, it also helps break any tendency toward highway hypnosis which might result from looking straight ahead all the time.

There's something else you can do, too, to help keep alert while driving. At just about any drug store you can get safe caffeine tablets to carry in your glove compartment. They will help restore and maintain alertness.

They are not habit-forming and contain only about as much caffeine as you would find in a full cup of strong coffee.

WITHOUT PRESCRIPTION

One or two tablets at the most should help restore mental alertness in about 15 minutes. You can get these tablets without a prescription, but if your doctor has forbidden you to drink coffee for some reason, you'd better check with him first.

None of these methods is a substitute for sleep when you are tired. But let's be practical; you can't always sleep when you would like to.

QUESTION AND ANSWER

Mrs. A. E.: My body, with exception of my arms and legs, is covered with a rash that itches and burns. This condition seems worse at night.

Answer: This eruption could be one of many conditions. Only an examination by your doctor or a dermatologist will disclose the diagnosis. Then proper treatment can be prescribed.

The Poets Corner

WORDS

Words, I have watched you spin
and slowly fall,
Or arch and dart as searching
bullets through
The air: You ricochet and then
appall
With wounds and scars as bombs
are wont to do:
Words, I have seen you kill destroy and maim
As surely as a knife, grenade-burst or
Dull creeping poison. Death-without-a-name,
I've watched you tapping on the human door,
Or shouldering love and laughter from the fire,
Where happiness gathered for its frugal fare—
In spite of all the horrors you conspire,
While chattering softly through this house of care:
But when you leave us bleeding on the field,
We pray for silence till our wounds are healed.

—Cullen Jones,
in The New York Times

NOTES BY THE WAY

When speeding across the country there are two things to think about: The scenery you miss and the things you might hit.—London Free Press

A woman reporter assigned to the Royal Tour had sore feet and walked barefoot on the tarmac of Deer Lake, Newfoundland, not a surprising occurence in the light of present-day women's footwear design.—Ottawa Journal

The Vardo exhibition will depict the history of Vardohus Fortress and the local state church, as well as stages in provincial developments through the centuries. At the ancient fortress, King Olav will carve his initials in the King's Beam. In 1590, King Christian IV put his initials on the same ceiling beam, and every king of Norway who since has visited Finnmark has done likewise.—News of Norway

A staid gentleman, honoray judge at a horse show, was upset by the dress of some of the girls. "Just look at that young person with the poodle cut, the cigarette and the blue jeans," he decried to a bystander. "Is it a boy or girl?" "It's a girl. She's my daughter." "Oh, forgive me sir," apologized the old fellow. "I never dreamed you were her father." "I'm not," snapped the other. "I'm her mother."—Galt Reporter

New York State, the most populated in America, has set aside 2,500,000 acres of land to be "forever wild." This forest preserve, larger than any national park, gives New Yorkers a vast estate where they may hike or canoe, swim or ski, hunt or fish. The forests also suggest what the state looked like to its first settlers, who thought the woods unending when they ripped the green mantle from the earth.—National Geographic

When 12 year-old Joel Montgomery won the National Spelling Bee the other day with "fanfaronade" and "catamaran," after various rivals had mis-spelled—not mispelled—"ephelis," "pochade", "vinaigrous" and "porphyry", we had the feeling that things are getting tougher every year in this venerable American contest. There was a time when most of the classic stumpers were at least words in common currency, such as "cemetery" and "supersede," though, come to think of it, we never had much use for that curious family built around "phth"—"naphtha" and "phthistic."—New York Herald Tribune

The Age Old Story

I will instruct thee and teach thee in the way which thou shalt go: I will guide thee with mine eye.

"The pig, children, is a most useful animal," said a teacher. "We use its head for brawn, its legs for ham, its bristles for brushes. Now what else do we use of the pig?" "Please Miss", said one child, "we use its name when we want to be rude."—Galt Reporter

Gilbert Dutrieux, thirty-nine, required only one hour recently to climb the 694 steps to the second level of the Eiffel Tower. It was quite a feat, considering that Dutrieux has only one foot. He lost a leg during the Second World War and wanted to display the results of re-education for crippled veterans.—Paris Journal

MAXIMS

It is healthy symptom when a man is dissatisfied without being discouraged.

OUR YESTERDAYS

(From the Guardian Files)

TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO
(July 10, 1934)

The Charlottetown Public Library which has been undergoing extensive overhauling, will reopen Monday morning with 4,000 new books from the Carnegie Demonstration Library on shelves specially provided, in addition to the 30,000 volumes already in the library. Miss Margaret Jenkins, Charlottetown, has been added to the staff to assist Miss Jean Gill, Librarian.

Fire which started about 9.30 m. yesterday from a spark from a gasoline engine completely destroyed the farm dwelling, barn and outbuildings of Mr. Frank Myers, Crapaud. The fox ranch was also destroyed although no animals were lost. The fire began first in the barn and then spread to the other buildings.

TEN YEARS AGO
(July 10, 1949)

A large barn, the property of Arthur MacMicken, Carleton Siding, was completely destroyed last night in a fire which caused considerable damage to another nearby barn. Also lost was a large amount of hay stored in the barn. An adjacent shed used for storing machinery was saved by the efforts of neighbors. It is understood the loss is partly covered by insurance.

Mr. Donald O. Stewart, representing the Canadian National Silver Fox Breeders Association, Summerside, left Wednesday by plane for Oslo, Norway, to attend the International Fur Conference being held there July 20th to 23rd inclusive. This will be the first annual meeting of the international fur breeders following the inaugural meeting at Charlottetown last year.

SLOW DOWN AND LIVE

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