

The Chief Enemy

With every new discovery of a potentially destructive force there has come to the world a deep sense of fear. This was the reaction when the first crude musket replaced the bow-and-arrow as a standard military instrument; later, the invention of dynamite seemed to have such alarming possibilities that the man responsible for it was said to have been deeply troubled over the direction his scientific research had taken. Despite fear and regret, the advance—if that be the word for it—towards new and more powerful weapons has been steady and relentless. Today it is the hydrogen bomb; tomorrow or next year it will be something else even more destructive and more fearful.

It is natural that mankind should fear the forces which science continues to bring out of their former hiding places; yet, when all is said and done, the chief enemy of man's hopes for a better world is not the hydrogen bomb or anything that may replace it in the arsenals of the nations but war itself, which has plagued the human race from the moment of its birth up to the present hour. A war fought with the old time weapons might not kill as many people as would one fought with the latest devices, but it would be just as heinous in its moral evil and just as crushing in its assault on the better aspirations of the human soul. Doubtless, it would be a fine thing if A and H bombs could be outlawed; as a short term expedient it would be of much value. It would not be, however, a cure for the world's ills. Only when war itself has been outlawed and replaced by wiser and gentler methods of settling disputes among the nations will civilization be assured of freedom to go forward in the land of the living. This is the task confronting the nations' statesmen; to a degree, and not an inconsiderable one, it is the task that confronts us all.

More Homework

British Columbia school teachers, at their recent annual convention in Vancouver, adopted a resolution calling for more homework. The teachers seek to restore homework to children in elementary grades and to increase it for high school students.

Their action prompts the Vancouver Province to ask: Is the pendulum swinging back? "It seems no time," says The Province, "since embattled parents and modern educators were fighting to eliminate or reduce homework. Studies carried home from school were considered by many to be an unnecessary imposition, taking time from children's recreation and leisure, and even threatening their health. School studies were to be confined to school, eliminating at one fell swoop the regulations that kept the previous generation, and many generations before it, carrying home stacks of textbooks and scribbled, and poring over night assignments.

"Apparently, in the opinion of most teachers, this release from evening study hasn't worked out to well. Most children, they find, can't get proficient in all the subjects of the curriculum in school hours alone. They need time for review, preparation and supplementary study, at home. They learn to think for themselves. They can draw from parental experience.

"The teachers, in their resolution, want 'permission' to levy the homework, and this seems reasonable enough. Individual students vary greatly in the amount of homework they require, and in their incentive to carry their studies beyond actual hours in the schoolroom. Judging by his knowledge of some of the basic facts of spelling, arithmetic and other elementary subjects, a bit more homework would certainly do no harm to the average youngster."

Bulb-Growing in The Hebrides

An interesting attempt to assess the possibilities of a bulb-growing industry in the Hebrides is reported in the Edinburgh Scotsman. A patch of soil in Tiree has been planted with hyacinths by the West of Scotland College of Agriculture and the results will be watched throughout the West Highland area. The chances of success, says The Scotsman, are not as remote as many people might think, for it is a fact, which strangers to the Islands find hard to believe, that the climates of Tiree and Scillies, where bulb-growing has been an extensive business for many years, do

not differ greatly. This is due to the Gulf Stream, or, more accurately, to its offshoot, the North Atlantic Drift, which brings to the West Coast of Scotland a mildness which the East Coast certainly does not experience. Thus, while high winds and heavy rainfall are frequent, frost and snow seldom lie long in the Islands.

As a result, Canna and Islay, for instance, can grow potatoes quite as early and quite as well as more southern fields. In sheltered localities, indeed, growth is truly remarkable. Palms have been seen growing quite comfortably in Eggs, and peaches have been known to grow in the open air in Rum. The wonderful gardens of Inverver, on the West Coast of Ross-shire (described in Osgood Mackenzie's book, "A Hundred Years in the Highlands") were made mostly out of an old sea-beach. The pebbles were removed, and their place made up with "endless cartloads of peaty stuff from old turf dykes, red soil carted from long distances, and a kind of blue clay marl from below the sea." Within a few years, and almost in latitude 58 degrees, they were producing luscious pears and plums and apples, and pretty well every kind of flower that will grow anywhere else in Britain.

Lack of an adequate transport system, however, has been like a blight, making a wilderness out of a potentially productive area. The Highlands are dying for want of proper communications, yet while this fact must now be plain enough for all to see, there is still no sign of the comprehensive overhaul that is fundamental to a restoration of prosperity.

The chief natural enemy that a bulb industry in the Hebrides will have to contend with will undoubtedly be the wind. Its salt content, and not its strength, is probably the main danger, for this is inimical to every form of vegetation and burns up all unprotected growths. Some defence against the ocean blasts must therefore, be provided, and the development of tree belts throughout the Islands is a matter of prime importance.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Canada has often been called upon to interpret the old world to the new. Now, however, this country is being called upon to convert production drawings of the Belgian FN automatic rifle from metric measurements to inches, a task in which there can be no room for approximations.

Social Credit monetary proposals have at least one fatal flaw. Close study may reveal all sorts of amazing fiscal practices that work but the key is public confidence and that could not be maintained in blue sky money introduced to the accompaniment of political ballyhoo.

Summerside and the Island will miss the presence of Group Captain A. G. Kenyon who leaves today after two and a half years in command of the R. C. A. F. Station Summerside. Through his efforts the personnel station became thoroughly integrated with community life as well as maintaining high service efficiency.

Proposals for Senate reform are far from new. The father of Dr. William Scott Ferguson of Harvard whose death was recently reported, Senator Donald Ferguson, was proponent of Senate appointments being made on the recommendation of the Government, the Opposition and the Universities.

A former notable English criminal lawyer, now Lord Justice Birkett, believes that one of the most important features in the world today is freedom of the press. "There must be no closed doors," he says, "because publicity is the greatest aid to truth, and certainly it is the greatest aid to an understanding of the public affairs with which we all are concerned."

Charlottetown was not named after a woman for nothing. Even disregarding the early French settlement of Port Lajoie at the entrance to Charlottetown Harbour, there were houses erected on the actual site of Charlottetown shortly after the Island was ceded to Britain in 1763 and by 1775 there were eighty settlers in Charlottetown. The centennial celebrations next year commemorate a much more recent event, the capital's incorporation as a city.

Richard D'Oyly Carte, theatrical manager, was born this date 1844. After being a concert and lecture agent he became a theatrical manager at the age of thirty-one. In 1875 he produced "Trial by Jury", the first of the series of comic operas written by Sir W. S. Gilbert and composed by Sir Arthur Sullivan. It was followed by four more successes and the three men are said to have made £60,000 a year. He then built the Savoy Theatre and continued the successful productions. The English Opera House, which he opened in 1891, was a failure, however, and was sold for music-hall purposes. It is now known as the Palace Theatre.



In Harmony

The Entente Cordiale

By Jacques Kayser

The Poet's Corner

MUSIC I HEARD

Music I heard with you was more than music.
And bread I broke with you was more than bread;
Now that I am without you, all is desolate;
All that was once so beautiful is dead.
Your hands once touched this table and this silver,
And I have seen your fingers hold this glass.
These things do not remember you, beloved,
And yet your touch upon them will not pass.
For it was in my heart you moved among them,
And blessed them with your hands and with your eyes:
And in my heart they will remember always—
They knew you once, O beautiful and wise.
—Conrad Aiken.

Old Charlottetown

and P. E. I.

EDUCATIONAL DRAWBACKS

From a report to the Board of Education by Mr. John MacNeill, Visitor of District Schools, Oct. 26, 1937:
"Though various laws have been enacted from time to time by the Legislature of this Island, for the regulation of schools, and considerable sums of money have been appropriated for their encouragement, I regret to have to state, from recent personal observation, that the system of instruction pursued in many of the country schools throughout the Island is extremely defective, and consequently but little really useful and substantial knowledge is acquired by the children attending them."

"This appears to me to arise from several causes: some of these perhaps unavoidable in a new country like this. In many of the settlements, the inhabitants are poor—and having to struggle with numerous difficulties in procuring the means of subsistence for their families, the education of their children is with them an object of mere secondary consideration. And even when they do turn their attention to this important object, they are not (generally speaking) their teachers, having themselves with the common idea, that it is better to have any teacher than none at all."

"The little encouragement which is in most cases held out to teachers of character and qualification, and the precarious manner in which their salaries are paid, operate most powerfully as a bar in the way of the advancement of education. Hence it too frequently happens, when the necessary literary attainments are not wanting, that it is only persons of shipwrecked character, and blasted prospects in life, after every other resource has failed them, who take up the important office of Schoolmaster; and hence also the frequent changing of the teacher, the long lapse of time that takes place after the expiration of the engagement of the old, before a new one is appointed; in consequence of which the children nearly forget what they previously acquired."

"The migratory character of the schools, or the shifting of them from place to place, has, in my opinion, another injurious effect upon the progress of education. From this cause it happens, that after the children have made considerable proficiency, their career is stopped all at once by the removal of the school to another part of the district, where the population has recently become more dense; and then the former locality is completely deserted, the settlers immediately around it being unable, without the cooperation of their more distant neighbours, to secure the continuance of the school."

"The irregular attendance of the children at school, in many instances, where their parents keep them at home to work, during the busy season of the year, tends seriously to retard their own improvement, and acts as a drawback upon the diligence and efficiency of the teacher."

In April, 1904, agreements between France and Great Britain preceding the Entente Cordiale were signed. After fifty years it can now be said that this date is one of the most important of the century, since it marks the forging of a link that, with the defeat of German aggression, was to preserve a civilization on human freedom.

In England and France, politicians and diplomats of courage had realized at the time that co-operation between the two countries was essential. They came up against resentment and suspicion aroused in public opinion by the Fashoda incident and the Boer war, creating mutual hostility.

But reason prevailed. Thanks to concessions on both sides, documents were signed settling outstanding questions, some limited, others, far-reaching in Egypt, Morocco, West Africa and Newfoundland. The House of Commons unanimously approved the government's action and the leader of the Liberal Opposition gave his party's unreserved support. Delcasse, the French Foreign Minister, had to face objections, mainly sentimental in character. Some hundred members voted against him, but he had obtained the support of Jaures and the Socialist party for a measure of "positive value for conciliation and peace".

The correspondence of Paul Cambon, one of the artisans of the 1904 agreements, reveals that the policy of the Entente Cordiale had been contemplated for a long period, and soundings, contacts and conversations had been going on for almost five years. When an opportunity for negotiation and decision occurred it was seized. "A favourable opportunity existed," that great French diplomat wrote to his son on April 16th, 1904, "but it does not suffice to encounter opportunities in life, nor even to wish to seize them; one must be ready to seize them." He ended with a fact that experience had taught him: "Nothing can be improvised in war and in politics."

In a few years the theoretical rapprochement decided upon by the negotiators was turned into a real and sincere rapprochement of the two nations. On the eve of 1914 it was no longer true to say: "The Entente is a marriage of convenience with no possibility of love or divorce".

The war of 1914-1918 was waged by the two countries with equal heroism, inspiring mutual esteem. The controversies and disappointments of the peace, the antagonism created by a certain short-sighted conception of interests, superficial differences of opinion regarding methods to be used for maintaining peace and resisting the threat of Nazism and national socialism all caused momentary irritation and estrangement; but none of that could shake the conviction of the English and the French people that in time of trial the two nations would be bound by destiny to the same camp, that of the champions of democracy.

The dramas of the Second World War did nothing to modify the

children at school, in many instances, where their parents keep them at home to work, during the busy season of the year, tends seriously to retard their own improvement, and acts as a drawback upon the diligence and efficiency of the teacher.

"I must also mention another practice which is too prevalent in the country, and which, I conceive, is a exceedingly injurious to the respectability of the teacher in the eyes of his pupils, and consequently hurtful to his usefulness—that is, receiving his board by going from house to house; in which case, he is regarded, both by parents and children, as little better than a common mendicant; and from the familiarity which must necessarily subsist between himself and the family, he cannot exercise that authority, over his pupils, which is indispensably necessary for a teacher to maintain."

NOTES BY THE WAY

And then there's the man who complains that his wife has the last word even at Scrabble. — Hamilton Spectator.

—Bucharest radio first announced that Lucretia Bratascu, founder of the Communist party in the country had been executed; then later said a mistake had been made and the firing squad had despatched another man by the same name. It still isn't quite clear to us, however, whether the firing squad or the radio made the error. — Cornwall Standard-Freeholder.

Life was so much simpler when all odd phenomena could be blamed on sun spots. — Hamilton Spectator.

The return of the first robin, the blooming of the first crocus and the first verbal eruption in the House of Assembly are all equally sure signs of spring in Newfoundland. So we may feel now, no matter what the weather looks like, that spring is actually here. — St. John's Telegram.

—Father, mother and the children are out for a drive. They see a little fawn, or a baby racoon or groundhog. Father stops the car, and in no time the family is fondling the little animal. After all have agreed that the little thing is really "cute," the forest baby is taken home as a pet. Such an act is so wrong, the province has enacted legislation against this kidnapping. Those who are caught at it face stiff penalties. — Fort William Times-Journal.

Bored with popularity polls, the New York Herald Tribune's records editor invited readers to submit lists of the five most boring "acknowledged masterpieces" on records. Readers responded with "enthusiasm and unconcealed joy," reported Editor Herbert Kupferberg. Their "most tedious ten": 1) Rimsky-Korsakov's Scheherazade, 2) Franck's Symphony in D Minor, 3) Ravel's Bolero, 4) Wagner's Parsifal, 5) Beethoven's Missa Solemnis, 6) Brahms's Requiem, 7) Dvorak's Symphony No. 5 ("New World"), 8) Beethoven's Symphony No. 9 ("Choral"), 9) Wagner's Tristan and Isolde, 10) Tchaikovsky's Symphony No. 5. — Time Magazine.

Spring came eventually in 1816, farmers sowed their crops, green shoots appeared. Then, in the middle of June, snow came. Tradition has it that from the first fall of snow in June until the following summer the ground was not free of snow. There were no crops of any kind. All the grains rotted in fields. The population had to live on fish and meat. The latter was plentiful because there was no hay to keep cattle alive. Thus many were slaughtered. In Quebec hay had to be imported from Ireland. Flour — no grain grew — rose to \$17 a barrel, and potatoes cost a penny a pound. In New Hampshire the price of hay was \$180 a ton. It is difficult to separate legend from fact, but the Dominion

The Age Old Story

For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive.

If a fair share of freight costs, would probably not be necessary at all.

Farm Land Values

(Sydney Post-Record)

A special report of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics concerning the average value per acre of occupied farm lands in Canada serves to point up a problem of particular concern to farmers in Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island. For while the value of occupied farm land in these two Maritime provinces remained virtually unchanged over the period of 1939 to 1954, land values in the three Prairie provinces doubled and in the case of Manitoba actually tripled.

It would be unrealistic to attribute the tremendous capital gains for Prairie farmland values to the discovery of oil in the area or even to the inflow of new settlers. Rather, the explanation lies in the exceptional freight rate privileges enjoyed by western grain growers.

Farmers in the Maritime Provinces enjoy the protection of the Maritime Freight Rates Act in shipping produce to central Canadian markets. Effect of the Act is to keep Maritime freight rates 20 per cent below the general level of freight rates prevailing elsewhere. The Maritime Freight Rates Act, however, does insulate farmers in the east from the impact of mounting freight rates, as do the statutory Crownst grain rates in the West.

Freight rates under the Maritime Freight Rates Act have gone up about 98 per cent since the end of the war. Freight rates on Prairie grain moving for export, however, remain fixed at the same level as existed in 1899. It would be unrealistic for Maritime farmers to expect complete exemption from freight rates, which reflect the increased cost of rail operation today. It is equally unrealistic and unfair, however, to expect Maritime agriculture to continue "subsidizing" the prosperous grain growers of western Canada through further general freight rate increases which, if grain were to bear

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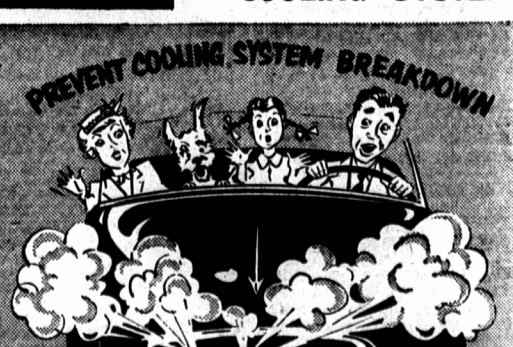
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