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

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 22, 1954

So Much For The Mind

Milton called a good book the life blood of a master spirit, and Governor General Massey may have had this definition in mind in an address delivered in Toronto on Tuesday. At any rate, he saw in good books—or more precisely in the reading of good books—a sure means of checking the "rapid and degrading depersonalization which is the threat of our times." His Excellency deplored the relative decline in the use of books in this age of mass recreational media. "They are being replaced," he said, "by radio in its various forms, by television and, of course, by the cinema. The last two represent increasingly the pictorial tastes of the masses who are turning more and more to wordless cartoons or to pictures in which the captions are couched in the most primitive and rudimentary of language. Sometimes it seems that what is conveyed by this language is not received through the mind at all but is absorbed by the pores."

Good books enable the reader to come to terms on equal footing with great men, His Excellency said. The reflective reader also is invited, if not obliged, to look into his own mind and conscience and come to terms with himself. No other means of communication offers him this opportunity. All others carry him along at a time and pace set by the machine. He must listen or watch with the group; he is constantly subjected to the emotional pressures almost inherent in group operations. Today in a mass-produced, mass-organized, group-thinking society, books are above all others the means by which the individual may be nourished and a free society preserved.

Book lovers are perhaps the most fortunate people economically today, for modern printing and mass-distribution processes have made available most of the world's masterpieces at the cost, almost, of a package of cigarettes; while at moderate expense one can purchase finer editions which, a few years ago, would have been quite outside the average reader's means. What sacrifices were made in older times for literary enjoyment? "When I get a little money," wrote Erasmus to a friend, "I buy books; and if there is any left, I buy food and clothes." There is no need for anyone to go to such extremes today. And the older the book, the more likely it is to give one a fresh approach to current affairs. As Oliver Wendell Holmes aptly remarked, "Old books are the books of the world's youth, and new books are the fruits of its age." Both, if worth while, constitute "riches which increase by being consumed, and pleasures which never cloy."

Coat-Tail Strategy

One unusual feature about the United States Congressional campaign currently being waged with characteristic vehemence and ballyhoo is the timidity with which the pollsters, professional and amateur alike, are approaching their pre-election prophecies. This is due, of course, to the humiliating position in which they found themselves after the 1948 Presidential when Mr. Truman won handily despite all predictions to the contrary. While leaders of both major parties are talking of sure victory in time-honoured fashion, a few of the more candid Republicans are admitting that they are "running scared", a phrase which has a respectable niche in American political nomenclature. The reason for this frankness is that only once in modern history—in 1934—did the Administration pick up any strength, or even hold its own, in an off-year. But apart from that historical consideration, independent sources—there are still some of these in the United States—appear to believe that, at the moment, the Democrats have more than a slight edge over their opponents. In support of this opinion they cite organized labour's over-all hostility to the Administration, the obvious dissatisfaction in farming areas over the present parity program, and the indisputable fact that in American history the Democratic Party has received the favour of public opinion more often and more decisively than has the G.O.P.

Meanwhile, it is clear that the Republicans are depending more on the President's personal popularity than on the stated record of the Administration. This is understandable in view of the fact that in 1952 Mr. Eisenhower ran far ahead of his party's candidates for both the Senate and the House. In fact, it is common knowledge that voters in some traditionally Democratic States sent Republican candidates to Congress only because they wanted

to see Mr. Eisenhower in the White House and felt, naturally, that a strong and sympathetic Congress would aid him in the creation and maintenance of wise and stable government. Reports say that, although two years of the ups and downs of political life have removed some of the glamour from the President's personality, the great service he rendered the nation and, indeed, the whole free world, in the war and post-war periods, still stands him in good stead. Whether this will count as heavily as before and thus make the Republican coat-tail strategy effective, remains to be seen. It is significant, however, that the Democrats are saying little or nothing derogatory to Mr. Eisenhower; their chief complaint appears to be that the President is surrounded by inefficient administrators and advisers, and that whatever good the Administration has done was done by virtue of Democratic support, despite much disunity and confusion in the ranks of the Republicans.

A Major Problem

Canada's large surplus of agricultural products, accompanied by a weakening of farm prices over an extended period without appreciable reduction in operating costs, continues to pose a major problem for the nation's farmers, according to the Bank of Montreal Business Review for October. "Taking a broad view of the agricultural scene," the review says, "it is apparent that in the sectors that account for upwards of four-fifths of farm cash income—grain, livestock, dairying and poultry—there is a pronounced impression of abundance. But it is also apparent that the present situation is not without its disturbing features for those engaged in agricultural production. In commodity after commodity prices have weakened from their postwar peaks, and, where government support has come into play, large surpluses have been accumulated."

The review notes that this year's crops, which were late in maturing and for the most part low in yield and quality, are unquestionably lean in comparison with the fat harvests of the past three years. It suggests, however, that, if a lean year had to come, there was some consolation in the fact that it found granaries and barns well stocked. "Indeed," the conclusion that clearly emerges, is that the problems facing Canadian agriculture are problems less of scarcity than of plenty, and of plenty on a broader front than at any time in the postwar period."

In reviewing the agricultural picture, the report pays particular attention to the livestock situation, noting that the rise in the cattle population has been a prominent feature in recent years. From 1945 to 1950 there was a steady depletion of herds, but in 1950 this trend was halted and reversed, and there ensued a period of replenishment which has continued, although at a somewhat slower pace, this year. The number of calves and beef cattle on Canadian farms at June 1 was officially estimated at 6.7 million head, 1.6 per cent above a year earlier and 23 per cent more than the census count at June 1, 1951. Noting that in the last two years cattle slaughterings have risen sharply, the review states there is little doubt that 1954 figures will be substantially higher than 1953.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Sir Cloudesley Shovel, English admiral, died this date 1707. Apprenticed to a shoemaker, he ran away to sea as a cabin-boy. He rose rapidly in the Royal Navy and, after playing active and gallant parts in the battles off Beachy Head and La Hogue, he assisted Sir George Rooke in the storming of Gibraltar in 1704. His ship was lost with all hands off the Scilly Isles.

Two Canadian delegates will take part in the Commonwealth Oceanographic Conference to be held at the National Institute of Oceanography from October 18-22. They are Colonel H. B. Hachey and Dr. G. S. Field. They will discuss closer cooperation in Commonwealth Oceanographic research with other delegates including those from Australia, New Zealand, India and Pakistan. Ceylon and South Africa are also sending observers.

Every centre of population would do well to heed the pronouncement made by Major-General F. F. Worthington, Canada's civil defence co-ordinator, about the Toronto disaster. He said: "It needn't have happened." After a tour of the flood-stricken areas he said that if there had been a trained and equipped civil defence organization the death and damage toll would have been lighter. People died who could have lived and property was lost that could have been saved, he said. Another factor in the disaster was lack of public discipline. Thousands of sightseers from metropolitan Toronto and elsewhere hampered search and relief operations in the Humber Valley.



Our Spud Gets Around

The Trieste Agreement

By HEATH MACQUARRIE

Diplomats of the West have scored a major victory in the settlement of the Italo-Yugo Slav dispute over the port of Trieste, which has long been a threat to the peace of Europe. The agreement signed in London on October 5 marked the end of many months of secret negotiation in which Britain and the United States strove to reconcile the views of the Rome and Belgrade governments. In all four capitals general satisfaction is being expressed over the disposition of the territory.

The territory in question comprises some 293 square miles containing Trieste and its hinterland. The city and the more populous part, Zone A will go to the Italians and the hinterland, with its large Slovene population will be Yugo Slavia. Provision will be made for transfer of population where desirable and Yugo Slavia will have guaranteed harbor rights and port facilities. Thus once more, as in Korea and Germany, a wartime demarcation line has become a permanent boundary.

Interestingly enough the agreement now hailed by the Italians and Yugo Slavs divides the territory almost exactly as the British and American governments proposed to do a year ago. But at that time violent outbursts occurred in both countries and there was grave danger of armed warfare, in October 1953 the British and Americans thought that by simply withdrawing from the zones of occupation they were disposing of another trouble spot by giving both Italy and Yugo Slavia a slice of territory. They soon discovered that their action had an entirely opposite effect and it has taken nearly twelve months to make good the damage done.

In the old days of the Austro-Hungarian Empire, Trieste, with its magnificent Adriatic harbor, was one of the busiest ports in Europe. Many Italians lived in the city and Italy long cast covetous eyes in its direction. By the secret Treaty of London in 1915 the Italians were given assurance that Trieste would be theirs if Italy joined the war against Germany and Austria, her former allies. After the defeat of the Central Powers the promise was fulfilled and Trieste remained in Italian hands for twenty-five years. But in the second war Italy was on the losing side and Yugo Slavia, in the right camp from the first, expressed a desire for the port. For some time its claim received sympathetic attention from the allied powers.

But the diplomatic picture changed when the strategy of defeating Italy from Germany assumed major proportions in 1944. In their efforts to woo Italian support the anti Hitler powers promised them generous treatment if they would turn against the Fascist forces. This generosity extended to Trieste. Therefore both Yugo Slavia and Italy were led to believe that the fortunes of war would bring them territorial advantages in the controversial area. Since both sides could not realize their ambitions a compromise was necessary and this took the form of an arrangement to make the territory a Free City under United Nations control. But the U. N. was never able to agree on a governing body and the district remained under "temporary" occupation of the military forces in the spot. The British and Americans were in one zone and the Yugo Slavs in the other. As Tito moved within the Russian bloc the B zone passed effectively behind the Iron Curtain.

In 1948 an election was held in Italy and in a supreme effort to ward off a Communist victory the Western powers made many promises to the Christian Democrats. One of these was that Italy would get the whole of Trieste, and during the campaign much was made of this pledge. But Tito's soldiers stood grimly in their zone of occupation and on one showed any inclination to challenge their determination to stay there. In 1950 the Yugo Slavs broke with the Russians and no more was heard of the promise to give both zones to Italy.

For years the matter rested and an uneasy peace was maintained in the area. This was shattered when the British and Americans announced last October that they would pull their seven thousand troops out of zone A and let the Italians take over. Riots broke out in Belgrade, and Marshal Tito announced that the entry of Italian troops would be regarded as a hostile act. The Italian government refused to back down and the British and Americans decided to stay.

Washington and London had made the great mistake of announcing their decision without consulting either the Italians or the Yugo Slavs and neither country could accept such an affront to its national honor. But since last March the issue has been discussed by diplomats of the four countries and while the 1954 division is much like that of 1953 the Italians and Yugo Slavs regard it as something negotiated rather than imposed. Between the two methods there is a world of difference.

Tito has recently concluded an alliance with Greece and Turkey. Improved relations with Italy will greatly strengthen the diplomatic and military front in that part of Europe.

Books Received

MADAMI by Ann Eisner Putnam with Allan Keller (Prentice-Hall, N. Y. 303 pp. \$3.95.) An American artist married an anthropologist who worked as a health officer in the Belgian Congo. Their work and their interests brought them in remarkably close contact with the pigmy people living in the geographical centre of Africa. With the aid of an outstanding journalist, an ever-ready camera and her own sketching ability Mrs. Putnam has made her experiences during eight years in the jungle come very vividly to life.

MOST LIKELY TO SUCCEED by John Dos Passos (Prentice-Hall, N. Y. 310 pp. \$3.50.) Most Americans are trying to forget that many intellectuals and liberals in the United States were enamoured of Communism in the 20's and 30's. The hectic pace of those years is recalled in this latest work by Dos Passos. It is recalled indeed but not made believable. Jed Mortis is supposed to be a brilliant young playwright, in demand by producers in New York and Hollywood and highly attractive to the ladies. No convincing reason is given for any of these things. The book is entertaining but seems to contribute little to an understanding of the period which the author evidently knows well but fails to interpret to a world that has moved on.

HAVE FUN WITH YOUR CHILDREN by Frances R. Horwich and Reinald Werremrath, Jr. (Prentice-Hall, N. Y. 187 pp. \$2.95.) Living together, working together, playing together day by day, such are the sub-headings in Chapter 14 of this friendly manual for parents and they express the general philosophy of the writer. She suggests in an informal and attractive way how toys may be guided through their formative years.

GOLF AND BE DAMNED by Lawrence Larier (Prentice-Hall, N. Y. 128 pp. \$2.95.) This is an amusingly illustrated and highly irreverent treatise by the author of "Fish and Be Damned." His first serious painting is said to have been a big black moustache on a subway poster. Since then he has apparently learned to add captions to his illustrations.

SATCHMO-MY LIFE IN NEW ORLEANS by Louis Armstrong (Prentice-Hall, N. Y. 240 pp. \$3.50.) In his own racy language jazz-trumpeter Armstrong tells his story. There is a striking and no doubt real contrast between the personal and the somewhat sordid experiences and the eloquence with which he describes music and musicians. Jazz addicts will be fascinated by this revelation of how a trumpeter, singer, actor and orchestra leader worked up to the big time.

The Poet's Corner

HUNTER'S MOON

The moon of the hunter will be here
 This year on Columbus night,
 A moon no sailor would reverse,
 Preferring to fix his keen eyesight
 On the white spar of the north star.
 But a landsman's moon is the hunter's moon
 And he sees it rise with sheer delight,
 Peeling the leaves beneath his toes
 And knowing that autumn the stalker goes
 Hunting in overhead places where
 The moon hangs half detached in air.
 A moon that's bright and pumpkin round
 And could, like a leaf, drop without sound.

—Elizabeth Jane Austley in New York Herald-Tribune.

Old Charlottetown

and P. E. I.
COLES' GRIST MILL

"It is pleasing to state that Mr. George Coles has succeeded in putting his Steam Grist Mill into successful operation. We visited the establishment a few days since, and were much gratified with the apparent convenience of his very extensive Mills, Brewery, Distillery, Malt House and Kiln, the whole covering one-third of an acre of ground. The machines of the Mill have been erected in a workmanlike manner, and promise to do a great deal of business, and we hope that so enterprising and industrious a person will meet with a remunerating return for his very extensive outlays."

—Royal Gazette, April 7, 1840.

The Age Old Story

And as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and blessed it, and brake it, and gave it to the disciples, and said, Take, eat; this is my body. And he took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave it to them saying, Drink ye all of it; for this is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sins. . . . And when they had sung an hymn, they went out into the mount of Olives.

SEA UNICORN

The narwhal or sea unicorn of the Arctic ocean has a tusk of pure ivory from six to 10 feet long.

WHITE OWL

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NOTES BY THE WAY

An Italian barber has made a world's record for shaving a customer in 16 seconds. And very likely set a new low for conversation during the process.—Ottawa Citizen.

The chap who takes a flyer on the stock market or in high finance would be wise to save enough ready cash for a parachute.—Chat-ham News.

Bachelors of the Muka tribe in Africa are forced to support a huge tree trunk on their shoulders for twenty-four hours before their marriage, to prepare them for the burdens of matrimony. The idea seems sound, but is twenty-four hours long enough?—Cornwall Standard-Freeholder.

A new breed that has descended upon us is the "scofflaw." The foremost scofflaw of New York City, for instance, is said to be a waitress who collected 73 traffic tickets in six months, and ignored them all. She's now doing six months in jail, which no doubt will have her spires them to keep going when they are physically exhausted or when they feel a sick headache coming on.—Guelph Mercury.

Sense of duty is a force which impels persons to pay courtesy calls or send flowers, or be in one place when they would prefer to be in another place, or to volunteer for jobs that other persons refuse to take. Sense of duty gets persons up out of sick beds, or inspires them to keep going when they are physically exhausted or when they feel a sick headache coming on.—Guelph Mercury.

All Los Angeles dog licenses, says a despatch from the metropolis bear the same expiration date. Current tags read thus: Exp. 6-30-55. A good lady in a contiguous suburb is asking for a new telephone number. She is being overwhelmed by phone calls reporting that her lost dog has been found. She has no dog. But her telephone number is EX 6-3055.—Christian Science Monitor.

There's no need to worry if you can't sleep at nights, says a 76-year-old Englishman who claims he hasn't slept for 46 years. This is reassurance hardly needed by many who fall asleep as lightly as the fall of a feather, and you have trouble persuading them to get up in the morning. What this country has more need to worry about is people who hardly can stay awake on the job in the daytime.—Sydney Post-Record.

We are aware, unhappily, that to be a "tough guy" is equivalent to being a hero in some circles, notably those frequented by hoodlums and hoodligns. Well, the "tough guy" crowd can find some news in yesterday's and today's papers, assuming that they ever read anything but crime comics. The government is going to start a Canadian version of the American prison at Alcatraz, for exceptionally hardened and incorrigible prisoners who are known to have a particularly bad influence on other inmates of reform institutions.—Sarnia Observer.

Now the dogs are doing it! They're picking up one of the most irritating habits of dumb humans who operate automobiles despite questionable intelligence. Only the dogs are not as dumb as the humans. They are really intelligent in their resort to this annoying human practice. We are referring to the stupid business of unnecessary horn blowing by inconsiderate oafs too lazy to get out of their cars to ring a doorbell, or those who seem to imagine they can untangle a traffic snarl by sounding off like screaming idiots.—Saint John Telegraph Journal.

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