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"The Strongest Memory is Weaker Than the Weakest Ink."

WEDNESDAY, MAY 22, 1946

Those Milk Subsidies

After June 1 consumers will have to pay two cents more than at present for their milk and, after September 30, when all producers' subsidies end, they are certainly in for another price rise.

Actually it is costing that much now but the excess is paid by the Government in the form of a direct subsidy to consumers and an indirect subsidy to the farmer who produces the milk. These subsidies amount to between three and a half and four cents a quart. It is the direct consumers' subsidy of two cents which comes off June 1. It was mistaken policy from the first, says the *Ottawa Journal*, not to have kept consumers aware of these payments, not to make it clear to consumers that they were getting cheap milk because the Government was paying a big share of the cost.

Anybody who expects either the farmers or the distributors to absorb any of the increase should examine the facts. Farmers have been clamoring for better prices, and the recent cut from the Winter subsidy rate of 55 cents a hundred pounds (which is now restored till September 30) caused a wave of protest and angry meetings and, in some instances, threats of a milk strike. Costs to farmers have gone up in recent months, labor in particular, and the Government's own survey shows that milk distributors have been working on a very close margin.

After September 30 subsidies of all kinds on fluid milk cease and the whole matter of price is thrown back on the provincial control boards. It is unthinkable that farmers will accept 55 cents a hundred less for Winter milk than for their Summer production, and it is practically certain provincial boards will have to authorize a further price increase to consumers.

The Government has been paying out about $24,000,000 a year in consumers' subsidies, and almost as much in the form of subsidies to farmers sending milk to the fluid market. It was expected that some time or another the Federal treasury would have to get from under.

No Loans Yet For Russia

While Russia has been seeking a United States loan since early in 1945 its prospects are not considered bright in Washington. After mislaying the Russian loan application for some months and suddenly discovering it, with public embarrassment, in a State Department pigeonhole, the United States Government offered to consider lending $1 billion to Russia. This was a sixth of the figure which Marshal Stalin had suggested casually to Senator Claude Pepper in Moscow.

Even the proposed billion-dollar loan has made little progress in subsequent negotiations. The sticking point appears to be the United States' insistence on conditions which Russia will not accept or at least so far has refused. In brief, the United States asks Russia to embrace the general foreign trade policy accepted by Britain under the terms of its special loan, recently passed after debate in the Senate. It is recognized in Washington that a state-trading nation like Russia cannot accept all the conditions possible in a system of private trading but Russia is asked to eliminate discriminatory trade practises and to embrace true multilateralism as far as possible.

The last American note to Moscow, according to the *New York Times*, implies that Russia should accept the Bretton Woods currency stabilization system, on which world multilateralism is to be based. Up to now Russia has shown no sign of agreeing to such conditions, though it desperately needs American dollars to buy American goods, especially machinery. Meanwhile Canada's attempt to lend money to Russia has broken down because Russia demanded interest rates far lower than those already granted to other borrowers.

In Staid Old England

Democracy is making itself felt in British Government circles in more ways than one. Official functions usually savour of the formal, but (writes "Janus" in *The Spectator*), there was something almost of a family circle atmosphere at the Foreign Secretary's farewell dinner to the American Ambassador on Tuesday. That was due mainly to Mr. Bevin himself, who, from his intimation after the Royal toast, "You can now smoke—your own cigarettes" (the guests were not actually reduced to that), to the end of the admirable, simple and intimate speech in which he proposed Mr. Winant's health, struck precisely the note required on such an occasion. His reminiscences of wartime companionship—"one night in the black-out the Ambassador and I parted in Grosvenor Square; he walked into his flat and I walked into a lamp-post"—progressed by an agreeable transition into direct address: 'You, John. . .' There were no unnecessary Misters. To the present Foreign Secretary his predecessor was Anthony Eden; to Mr. Eden his successor was Ernie Bevin; after all, they had sat far longer side by side than they have with the floor of the House between them. It was a very notable occasion, but a morning paper seemed a little imaginationatively perceptive in noting the 'dramatic scene' when Mr. Bevin, 'in a voice shaken with emotion,' proposed one extra toast, to the closer solidarity of the British and American people. My dull ear failed to detect the quaver. Even if it had, I might have ascribed the phenomenon to indigestion."

— EDITORIAL NOTES —

The difference. We have not begun to plant, yet in Texas they have begun to harvest, grain being on its way to market so long ago as May 8.

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"The newspapers, a local medium, give the closest contact with point of sale," states Bernard C. Duffy, President of Batten, Barton, Durstine & Osborn, Advertising Agency.

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Saskatchewan has followed this Province's example in imposing an angler's tax. Anglers must carry their license with them, a regulation which the Fisheries Department state will be strictly enforced.

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A new regulation regarding sky-scrapers will be necessary to avoid repetition of the Empire State Building and the Manhattan Bank Building disasters. There should be a ceiling, say of not more than 15 storeys, which would have the double advantage of safeguarding planes from collisions, and permitting sunshine a better chance to penetrate to the streets.

* * * *

It was a splendid idea of Judge Palmer to initiate discussions on current topics at Rotary. Till now strict adherence to rules confines speechifying to one address per luncheon, which at times was somewhat boring, especially when the propagandist type of orators were in evidence. Monday's meeting enabled the membership as a whole, to discover what they were interested in individually, and brought out a great deal of really valuable information.

* * * *

Premier Jones, who once was a Progressive, has no desire evidently to become entangled in Social Credit policies and plans, having turned down a request from Social Credit Alberta to support that province's Court appeal seeking to obtain legal approval for its Social Credit pension-dividend of $50 or $100 per month to all citizens, out of a provincial capital assets account which it intends instituting.

* * * *

Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, English novelist, born this date 1859; studied medicine under the famous Dr. Joseph Bell at Edinburgh University from whom he drew the character of his omniscient detective, Sherlock Holmes; his novels had a great vogue in the beginning of this century, and still have a circulation equal to many modern "best sellers"; he was an active propagandist of spiritualism, and devoted much time in his later years to the subject both in literature and on the platform: "It is the mute hound that bites the hardest."

* * * *

The popularity of canned food is due more to the container than the contents. Of over 3,000 retail grocers interviewed in a recent survey, more than 2,500 voiced preference for the tin can as the container for packaged processed foods. In the majority of cases, the reason for preference was "less breakage," and "no loss in handling." Close behind these reasons were the following: easier to display and handle, easier to store and stack, less cost, attractiveness in display. A similar survey of wholesalers and brokers showed a parallel preference for the tin container.

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"Spud" Arsenault of Yellowknife, and formerly of this Province, is not in the market for a wife. In an interview at Edmonton he said that since a Toronto newspaper printed the story of his longing for a mate, he had received 35 or 40 proposals from women, mostly in Ontario. One offered to sell him a chicken coop for $500—an offer he considered an insult to his intelligence — and another claimed she was not only a good cook, but could row a boat, tend a garden and was a "good log-roller." The money he makes selling his property ($350,000) he plans to share with his relatives and those who helped him prospect.

* * * *

The successful use of penicillin by the United Kingdom doctors in the treatment of mastoid is reported in the London Press. Application during the early stages of the illness is stated to have very good results, eliminating a difficult and dangerous operation which was formerly the only remedy. Penicillin is given for mastoid in normal injections into the bloodstream. Recently a nine-month-old baby was cured with sixty-six penicillin injections. She was treated for only three weeks. Dressings of the wound after the operation formerly lasted from six to nine months. Mastoid is an infection of the bone behind the ear which contains many cells. The bone is very close to the brain.

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According to the *Daily Telegraph*, London, Inspector W. Whitehead of the special branch of Scotland Yard has left for Canada to work with the R. C. M. P. in Ottawa "in their investigation into alleged leakages of atomic secrets to a foreign power." The newspaper said "it was understood" Mr. Whitehead, who arrested Dr. Alan Nunn May, British physicist recently convicted of violating the Official Secrets Act, "will hand over to Canadian authorities full details of the results of his investigations into activities in Britain of a secret agent thought to be a woman." The *Telegraph* also said that Theobald Mathew, director of public prosecutions, recently went to Canada to consult "with those in charge of the Canadian inquiry."

Notes By The Way

Item in a non-stop, inescapable, corner-to-corner conversation in a train, in which no person known to either lady apparently escaped lively comment: "My dear, she's the only woman I know, positively the only one who can wear leopard skin and earings and still look like a parson's wife!" — Manchester Guardian.

Lewis Copeland's "The Handy Encyclopedia of Useful Information" gives the following table of wars fought between 1480-1945: Great Britain, 78; Italy 26; France, 71; Holland, 23; Spain, 64; Germany, 23; Russia, 61; Denmark, 20; Austria, 52; United States, 13; Turkey, 44; China 11; Sweden, 26; Japan, 9.

The "lovers' ban" imposed at a cinema in Clones, County Monaghan, preventing unmarried couples from sitting together, has been lifted after five years. A new cinema has opened at which the ban does not apply, and the old cinema faced a virtual boycott. So the ban came off, and all couples sit where they please in both cinemas. —London Daily Mail.

The Preacher Ecclesiastes spoke to a different generation, and in found out who appeared before the Magistrate at Eastbourne recently charged with wasting bread by feeding it to ducks on an artificial lake. In our time of nearrationing those who caste their bread upon the waters run the risk that it will be many days before they can return to find it. —Glasgow Herald.

The faculty to dream was not given to mock us. There is a reality back of it. There is a divinity behind our legitimate desires. By the desires that have divinity in them, we do not refer to the things that we want but do not need; we do not refer to the desires that turn to Dead Sea fruit on our lips or to ashes when eaten, but to the legitimate desires of the soul for the realization of those ideals, the longing for full, complete self-expression, the time and opportunity shown in the moment of our highest transfiguration. — Orison Swett Marden.

Ottawa's policemen, a lady tells us, are tough, but oh so gentle. A while ago she watched another woman park her baby carriage and duck into a nearby store. In no time at all Snooks had kicked his blankets, mitts and one bootee overboard. Then he began to howl. The cop on point duty took stock of the situation and walked over. While traffic took care of itself, he replaced the mitts, tucked a pink foot back in its bootee, and made all secure with the blankets. He then strolled back to his station with a hard eye cocked for light-jumpers. —Maclean's Magazine.

War veterans in a hospital near Birmingham go to work daily in a factory which has been installed in one of the wards by a firm of motor and cycle accessory manufacturers. Here in the past few weeks some 20 patients, destined to be in hospital for what could be many weary months, have assembled over 6,000 bicycle bells and have received their pay packets. The Birmingham firm sent workpeople to teach the patients the assembly operations and now they are to turn their hands to more complicated tasks such as the assembly of switches and rear lights. The change in the patients' outlook on life since the workshop was opened is amazing. Men, who because of their injuries were depressed, are now more contented and in some cases even happy. They are beginning to feel self-reliant again. —Birmingham Information Bureau.

Those Australian technologists who, it is reported, have managed to take the tickle out of wool, will certainly be ranked high among public benefactors by many in the community. Particularly by members of the younger generation whose reaction to the donning of new woolen "undies" are more apt to display the energy of Nessus than the austere content of the devotee with his hair shirt. They have always been inclined to kick against the pricks. It is doubtful, in fact, if that famous bag of wool, so generously presented by the Black Sheep of nursery tradition, was ever really appreciated by the Little Boy who lived in the Lane. Possibly anticipating the future with a wriggle of dismay, he felt, with Pope's Narcissa: Odious! in woollen- 'twould a saint provoke! But if the young form the majority of vested interests affected, not a few of their elders will be extremely grateful for the solution of what has long been a ticklish problem. —Christian Science Monitor.

So far as we know, the Golden Rule Foundation's function of picking out distinguished mothers for recognition each year is entirely self-appointed. The Foundation, however, has for some years done a job that has rated prominent and favorable publicity. This year, with the award of first prize in the nation to a Negro woman, the story is more striking than ever before in the 12 years covering the span of the Foundation's activities. She is Mrs. Emma Clarissa Clement of Louisville, Ky., the granddaughter of a slave. One of her daughters is executive secretary of the Women's Home and Foreign Mission Society of the AME Zion Church; another is professor of English at Tuskegee Institute; the third is wife of the director of the Inter-American Foundation in Haiti. Of her sons, one is president of Atlanta University; one a professor of physics at West Virginia College; one a major in the Army Chaplain's Corps on leave from Hood Theological Seminary; one a Red Cross director in Italy. —Chicago News.

A few days ago I received a post office cable from America announcing the birth of a grandson. It described him as "seven pounds blind and full of life". Being myself an amateur typist, and knowing that with one parent dark and the other fair his color scheme was a matter of some curiosity, I had not a moment's trouble before recognizing "blond". "I compressed the cable into a telegram for other relations, describing the mother and child respectively as "very well" and "very lively". I now have a letter from my daughter, properly delighted at the news, but commenting that she had not thought that even the most besotted of parents could describe their newborn baby as "very lovely" I submit that the time has come when in the cause both of anxiety and of truth three vowels should have consonants set between them on the keyboard. —Letter in London Times.

PUBLIC FORUM

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

TAXES AND CO-OPERATIVES

Sir,—Your editorial of May 21 quotes statements made on behalf of the Income Taxpayers' Association before the Senate tax committee which we feel cannot be ignored.

First, what is the Income Tax Payers' Association? It is composed simply of five lawyers from Winnipeg and one lawyer from Toronto. They made themselves directors. They never had the pretense of a membership meeting. This was brought up in sworn testimony before the McDougall Commission on the Taxation of Co-operatives.

This association clamoured for a Royal Commission to investigate co-operatives; the Dominion Government acceded to their demand and appointed an outstanding commission headed by Judge McDougall. This commission, at great expense to the nation, held hearings from Vancouver to Halifax. They travelled in England and the United States. They secured the most expert opinion and brought down a report embodying their mature, considered judgments on the matter. Now the Income Tax Payers' Association is not content to rest on the recommendation of this commission but is endeavuring to mold public opinion by extravagant high-pressure claims.

What did this commission recommend? They recommended simply that co-operatives be treated like any other business. This is the recommendation: "That the Income War Tax Act and the Excess Profits Tax be amended to provide for the taxation of co-operative associations and organizations on the same basis as other persons in accordance with the recommendations which follow." (Page 44.) This is by no means particularly favorable to co-operatives. Other types of business have the same privilege as co-operatives, of paying back their earnings to their customers. No farmer in Prince Edward Island would object to the implement companies paying back their profits to the purchaser of farm machinery, especially after the recent increase in prices. All businessmen would have this privilege if the recommendations of the commission were implemented.

Let us discuss briefly the arguments of Professor J. L. McDougall of Queen's University. These arguments as used by the Income Tax Payers' Association have been taken from their context. When Professor McDougall appeared before the Royal Commission he stated—and this is in the recorded testimony — that his figures were only a very rough guess. He gave this figure only when pressed to do so by the commission.

However, the figure itself is not the significant point. He lumped together a number of different groups, Crown Companies, Provincial and Municipal Companies, and Co-operatives. Would the people of Summerside be any better off if their electric company were taxed? This would simply mean higher electricity rates in Summerside and vicinity, or less revenue to the town. Any relief from income tax in this case would be eaten up by higher taxes in another direction. Or if the government vendor were taxed, would the relief from income tax compensate for the increased prices of liquor? The savings which would be effected by the taxation of Crown and Municipal Companies would have little or no effect in lightening the tax burden of the nation.

Now about co-operatives.— Co-operatives pay all taxes, property, school, municipal, excise, tariffs and so forth. They file all regular tax returns and reports to the Income Tax Department.

There are different kinds of co-operatives. In a producer co-operative, such as a Fishermen's Union or a Creamery, all savings effected are taxable and the producer must pay this tax as an individual. If a Fishermen's Union by efficient production secures a higher return for its members, these members must pay their income tax on the amount they receive. Surely there is no injustice in such a case. As for Consumer Co-operatives, such as stores, they are exempt from income tax only by complying with certain very rigid conditions. For example, one co-operative in Prince Edward Island has incurred an income tax liability of over $6,000 in the course of the past four years. Under the present law, co-operatives are exempt only if they do less than sixteen and two-thirds per cent of their business with non-members. Moreover, they must pay a tax on all sums not rebated back to the members.

Responsible co-operatives follow the principle of charging current prices. This has a stabilizing effect on all business, and avoids ruinous competition which would be harmful to private trade. If the amounts which are rebated back to members should be subject to tax, co-operatives would simply charge lower prices and these so-called profits would vanish.

In the light of the above considerations, is not the Income Tax Payers' Association holding out vain promises to the people of the country, when they claim that their proposals would mean $50 less in income tax to all tax payers, or even no tax at all to those earning less than $1800 a year? They have based their argument on Professor McDougall's guess, on conclusions which do not follow from the facts, and they are holding out a fool's paradise to those who listen to them.

I am, Sir, etc.,
J. T. CROTEAU,
Managing Director of the Co-operative Union of P. E. I. and the P.E.I. Credit Union League.

IT'S A HABIT

ROME, May 20 — (AP) — Dispatches from Milan today said Adolfo Consolini, who betters the world record for the discus throw virtually every time he tosses the platter, did it again Sunday.

Consolini's toss measured 177 feet, three inches. He holds the listed world mark at 174 feet, 10 3-4 inches.

India

(United Kingdom Information office).

London commentators draw attention to the following main points in the statement issued on May 16th in New Delhi by the Cabinet Mission to India and the Viceroy. The statement, which represents the fruits of the Mission's discussions with the Indian leaders begun on the 26th of March, has been issued in London as a White Paper and its text was read by Mr. Attlee in the House of Commons.

At the outset, The Cabinet Ministers and the Viceroy declare: "We have done our utmost to assist the two main political parties to reach agreement upon the fundamental issue of the unity or division of India. After prolonged discussions in New Delhi, we succeeded in bringing Congress and the Muslim League together in the Conference at Simla. There was a full exchange of views and both parties were prepared to make considerable concessions in order to try to reach a settlement, but it ultimately proved impossible to close the remainder of the gap between the parties and so no agreement could be concluded. Since no agreement has been reached, we feel it is our duty to put forward what we consider are the best arrangements possible to ensure the speedy setting up of a new constitution. This statement is made with the full approval of His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom."

"We accordingly decided that immediate arrangements should be made whereby the Indians may decide the future constitution of India and an interim Government may be set up at once to carry on the administration of British India until such time as a new constitution can be brought into being. We endeavoured to be just to the smaller as well as the larger section of the people and to recommend a solution which will lead to a practicable way of governing the India of the future and will give a sound basis for defence and a good opportunity for progress in the social, political and economic field."

The statement deals at length with the Muslim League claim for a separate, fully independent sovereign state of Pakistan. While the evidence submitted to the Cabinet Mission showed an almost universal desire, the Muslim League accepted, for the unity of India, the Mission and the Viceroy gave a close an impartial examination to the Muslim case. They reached the conclusion that Pakistan not only would not solve the communal problem, but would be impracticable on administrative, economic, military and geographical grounds.

But this decision did not blind the mission and the Viceroy "to the real Muslim apprehensions that their culture and political and social life might become submerged in a purely unitary India, in which the Hindus with their greatly superior numbers must be a dominating element." Indeed the mission and the Viceroy were convinced that "if there is to be internal peace in India, it must be secured by measures which will assure to the Muslims control in all matters vital to their culture, religion, economic or other interests."

The solution recommended by the Mission and the Viceroy provides for a constitution on the following basis. Firstly, there should be a union of India embracing both British India and the Indian States, which should deal with foreign affairs, defence and communications, with powers to raise finances therefore. Secondly, the Union should have an Executive and Legislature composed of representatives of British India and the Indian States. Any question raising a major communal issue in the Legislature should require for its decision a majority of the representatives, present and voting, of each of the two major communities, as well as a majority of all members present and voting. In other words, London commentators point out, no bill involving a major Muslim issue could be carried out without the approval of the Muslim majority, and vice versa in case of Hindu issues. This is an important provision to allay in particular Muslim fears of Hindu domination. Thirdly, all subjects other than Union will retain all their subjects and powers other than those ceded to the Union. Fifthly, the provinces should be free to form groups with Executive and Legislatures.

The constitution-making machinery proposed provides for a Constituent Assembly, members of which would be elected by the Provincial Legislature. Each province would be allotted a number of seats proportionately to its total population and this provincial allocation of seats would be distributed among the main communities in proportion to the population of each community. The main communities would be three in number and classified as "general," Muslim and Sikh. "General" would include all non-Muslims and non-Sikhs. The Indian States would be separately represented.

The Constituent Assembly would sit as a single body to discuss the Constitution of India. It would split up into three sections to discuss constitutions for the provinces or groups of provinces. On the latter basis, it would be possible for the Muslims to secure the advantages of Pakistan without incurring the dangers inherent in a division of India.

These sections, it is suggested, should correspond to three groups of provinces; namely—Section A, Madras, Bombay, The United Provinces, Bihar, The Central Provinces and Orissa, where there is a large general (Congress) majority. Section B, Punjab, The Northwest Frontier Province, and Sind, where there is a large Muslim majority and a considerable Sikh minority. Section C, Bengal and Assam, where there is a small Muslim majority. It is proposed that the total number of seats in the Constituent Assembly should be 385, whereof 210 would be general, 78 Muslim, 4 Sikh, and 93 Indian States.

The Viceroy will forthwith request the Provincial Legislatures to elect their representatives and the Indian States theirs.

The statement proceeds: While constitution-making proceeds, the Administration of India has to be carried on. We attach the greatest importance to the setting up at once of an interim Government having the support of the major political parties. It is essential that during the interim period there shall be maximum co-operation in the carrying through of the difficult tasks that face the Government of India. Besides the heavy tasks of day-to-day administration, there is the grave danger of famine to be countered, there are decisions to be taken in many matter of postwar development which will have a far reaching effect on India's future, and there are important international conferences in which India has to be represented. For all these purposes, a Government having popular support is necessary. The Viceroy has already started discussions to this end and hopes soon to form an interim Government in which all Portfolios, including that of the war member, shall be held by Indian leaders having the full confidence of the people. The United Kingdom Government will give the fullest measure of co-operation to the Government so formed."

Addressing themselves to the leaders and people of India, the Mission and the Viceroy declare: "We lay before you proposals which we trust will enable you to attain your independence in the shortest time with the least danger of interal disturbance and conflict. These proposals may not completely satisfy all parties, but you will recognize with us that at this supreme moment in Indian history, statesmenship dem is mutual accomodation and we ask you to consider the alternative to acceptance of these proposals. In our view, there is small hope of peaceful settlement by agreement of the Indian Parties alone. The alternative would therefore be a grave danger of violence and chaos even civil war. We appeal to all who have the future good of India at heart to extend their vision beyond their own community or interest, to the interests of the whole four hundred millions of the Indian people."

To sum up, it is observed in London, the Viceroy had already begun negotiations with a view to forming an all-Indian interim Government, and will shortly invite the Provincial Legislatures and Princes to send representatives to the Constituent Assembly. No time is to be lost. It is now up to the Indians to co-operate in the formation both of a Government and of a Constitution. Otherwise, they will have proposed solution is in no sense an award. It is open to the Indians to accept or reject it. It is the hope of the United Kingdom Government and people that in their decision the Indians will be guided by the higher interests of India as a whole.

Who's Got A Strad ?

(Judith Klein in New York Herald-Tribune)

The first post-war sale of a Stradivari violin this month has set off the perennial fiddle-fiddle-who's-got-a-Strad game that is the delight of connoisseurs, the bane of instrument dealers and better than a detective story.

Since he negotiated the sale of Fritz Kreisler's "Earl of Plymouth" Stradivari violin to Miss Dorotha Powers, a one-time child prodigy planning a concert-stage comeback, Rembert Wurlitzer had received by the end of last week more than 100 letters from "old instrument finders" and the mail is still coming in.

Stradivari instruments are well worth finding. The approximately 600 in existence range in value from $6,000 to $100,000 each—but Mr. Wurlitzer declared that chances are that not many Strads are gathering dust in American attics. The twenty-five disappointed GI's who brought "authentic" Stradivari instruments back to the States and to Mr. Wurlitzer's office for inspection have found that the same applies to European cellars.

Of the 500 violins, 60 cellos and 14 violas bearing the dated imprint of Antonio Stradivari, the master craftsman of Cremona, some 200—including about 18 cellos and five violas—are in the United States. At last report England had about 150, France 75, Russia 20, 12 were in South America and the rest scattered about the world. Ironically, Italy, fatherland of great instrument makers had only five Strads.

Between 150 and 200 last known to be in the war-devastated regions of Europe will remain tantalizing question marks in old-instrument annals for years to come. Some undoubtedly have been destroyed; others probably have passed into anonymity in the hands of new owners unaware of their value, and still others, rescued or hidden, will come to light in the next few years.

* * *

Just what makes a Stradivari a priceless treasure has modern science feezed. Legend has it that Master Antonio had a secret formula for varnishing the spruce and maple instruments wherein lay the clew to the physical and tonal qualities preserved over the centuries. The formula, the story went, was destroyed in a fire along with the family Bible in which it was kept. X-ray and chemical analysis have made the secret no longer a secret. But modern instrument-makers are stumped; same wood, same varnish, and they still cannot duplicate a Strad.

A Strad's value, Mr. Wurlitzer declared, is based on the individual merit of the instrument, its state of preservation and its tradition and history. Like unto prima donnas, instruments have genealogies, associate with only the finest of folk and make guest appearances.

The instruments for the most part carry the names of their more prominent owners. Mischa Elman owns the "Madame Recamier". Yehudi Menuhin has the "Prince Khevenhuller", Iso Briselli the "Lord Norton".

The greatest of the Strads, the Messiah, has never been played, never been sold during its owners' lifetimes, was named in spite of one owner and has no price tag. Too perfect for playing and too precious for price, the 1716 violin has passed from the estate of Count Cozio di Salabue into the hands of a carpenter, Luigi Tarisio. Tarisio's side line included buying up musical instruments in his native Italy and going to Paris to sell them to dealers.

Coarse and peasant-like though his contemporaries considered Tarisio, he could not bring himself to sell Salabue's violin, although he boasted of it freely and promised to bring it to Paris on his next trip. Parisian dealers labelled the instrument, whose promised arrival never materialized, the "Messiah"—and acquired it from Tarisio's daughter after his death. The "Messiah" is in the Ashmolean Museum at Oxford University, to which it was willed by Arthur Hill, a London antique dealer, who had refused to sell it during his lifetime.

Arthur Hill was responsible for the discovery of the "Earl of Plymouth" in 1925. Reading an eighteenth-century manuscript, he found a reference to a Handel concert for which the earl had lent a Stradivari violin. The earl's heirs were unaware of the treasure and, at Mr. Hill's instigation, finally found it in a deserted lumber room where it had lain unplayed, for almost 200 years. As experts and musicians will testify, the "Earl of Plymouth" is considered the finest Strad in the Western Hemisphere.

* * *

If history enhances the value of these instruments, certainly the story of the 1720 "Piatti" cello may account in part for its estimated $75,000 price. It was in possession of Francesco von Mendelssohn, cellist and member of the Berlin banking family, in 1934, when the Nazis had an eye out for lucrative art treasures.

Mr. Mendelssohn laid careful plans. Day after day he would cross the Austrian border to play tennis with friends, returning to Germany in time for tea. He appeared one day with a cello on his back and told the guards he was planning on playing quartets with his Austrian friends. Neither he nor the cello returned to Germany.

Dealers, collectors, famous concert artists—such as Jascha Heifetz, Mischa Elman, Yehudi Menuhin, Albert Spalding, Efrem Zimbalist; "amateur fiddlers" such as Henry Ford and Charles Ringling, and Russell Kingman, a New Jersey wire-mesh manufacturer who is also a professional cellist, possess the precious instruments.

The ambition of most enthusiasts is to own a Stradivari quartet of two violins, a violoncello and a viola. There are five known quartets in the United States.

NANKING, May 20 — (AP)— Denmark today signed a treaty relinquishing extraterritorial rights in China. The treaty follows the example of Great Britain, Canada and the United States in relinquishing extraterritoriality.

The Poet's Corner

POEM

A poem is clear spring water that has lain
deep in the earth beneath the moving rain
until, with his fork of struggling hazel tree,
the diviner and his heartbeat set it free.

A poem is coastal water that has washed
the lonely beaches of the world
and smashed
on ancient headlands in the sun
and known
the changing sands, the worn eternal stone.

A poem is water in a barren land,
a wild cloud cupped in a mariner's cracked hand,
a foam of beauty on a bitter reef,
the taste of music on the tongue of grief.

—Frances Frost in the New York Herald Tribune.

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