

Suez Occupation

It was as representatives of bondholders that Britain and nominally France stepped into control of Egypt in 1882. For many years after, that country was nominally subject to the Sultan of Turkey, legally subject to the rule of the Khedives, and in practice subject to the rule of the English commissioner on the Egyptian debt. Since that time the country has made remarkable progress and the time has long passed when any outside tutelage was necessary for the administration of national affairs.

A number of agreements were entered into giving British troops the right and duty of defending Egypt in general and the Suez Canal in particular. The present strongly nationalistic government of Egypt, however, made it clear that it would be satisfied with nothing short of withdrawal of all British troops.

This is perhaps not so serious a matter from the point of view of security as it once would have been. Warfare is highly mobile today and the actual presence of bodies of troops in particular location does not have the same importance as formerly. Bases and installations will be maintained by civilians. Britain has the right to use the bases in case any of the Arab nations are attacked and both Britain and the United States have undertaken to assist in the strengthening of Egypt's own forces.

The forces of nationalism are not to be readily turned aside by either logic or practical advantage. Egypt is a striking example of the strength of the claims of national sovereignty. While it has been most valuable in the past as a force for liberty, it is something to be reckoned with by those aiming at any form of world government.

Scottish Affairs

"There should be a full understanding that Scotland is a nation, and voluntarily entered into a union with England as a partner and not a dependency." Such is a reminder in the report of the Royal Commission which for two years has investigated the desirability of setting up a separate Parliament for the northern kingdom and other possible changes.

The changes actually recommended are insignificant. A few powers now wielded by Parliament at Westminster are recommended to be placed in the hands of the Secretary of State for Scotland. For the rest, the commission's report indicates that a substantial majority of witnesses, representing Scottish municipal and county authorities, business men and labour unions oppose the creation of a separate parliament.

It seems that the noise made by nationalist groups does not reflect the real sentiments of any large section of Scottish opinion. There were attempts to arouse interest in this country and elsewhere in support of Scottish separatism but Canadians generally took the attitude that as we are quite capable of running our own affairs we may presume that the people in the Old Country can look after theirs.

Canada And Indo-China

Good offices rather than serious additional commitments appear to be involved in Canada's acceptance of an invitation from the Geneva Conference to serve with Poland and India on the Indo-Chinese armistice supervisory commission. Certainly it does not signify any departure from the policy of the Canadian Government. As the Winnipeg Free Press points out, Canada was never committed in Indo-China because the war there, unlike the Korean conflict, had never been brought before the United Nations. In the circumstances, though Canada is and must be deeply concerned to prevent every advance of Communism, the Government had declined to participate in decisions which might be made about military action in Indo-China. But membership on the supervisory commission does not, except in a rather technical sense, involve any military commitment. It may be necessary to despatch a small duty force to assist in supervising the implementation of the armistice terms, but supervision and enforcement are two entirely different operations.

Even in Korea, where most unwelcome armistice duties were accepted by India, no

real trouble ever developed. Yet in that country public opinion had been inflamed against the Indian force — even before it landed — by Mr. Syngman Rhee and his colleagues. No comparable situation seems to exist in Indo-China, and since serious decisions — those which might conceivably lead to a resumption of hostilities — will require a unanimous vote of the commissioners, it is improbable that any single member will become the target of public resentments dangerous enough to produce the threat of an armed clash.

The National Finances

Government revenue and expenditure occupy a much more important position in the individual's personal affairs today than ever before. The Canadian Tax Foundation, therefore, is doing an important public service in collecting and sifting information on government finances.

"The National Finances", an analysis of the programme of revenues and expenditure of the Government of Canada 1954-55 has been issued simultaneously with the Foundation's "Canadian Tax Journal" which contains interesting and informative articles on current taxation problems, a review of the submissions before the Tremblay Commission, a commentary on citizen research, a study of tax problems in relation to farm income—and loss—and comments on municipal grants.

The former publication attempts to reduce to understandable terms the vast and confusing phenomenon of the \$5 billion a year budget of the national government. It does not attempt to assess the value or efficiency of performance of the functions of government but goes on the principle that the first and most essential requirement for intelligent criticism is understanding.

It is, perhaps, unfair to select one item from many but it may be noted that had the Old Age Security Fund transactions been recorded in the budget there would have been a deficit of \$35 million in place of a surplus of \$10 for last year and a budgetary deficit of \$47 million instead of an anticipated surplus of \$4 million for the current year.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Today Canada welcomes H. R. H. the Duke of Edinburgh.

The visiting United States civil air cadets will see the Island to advantage today, from the air, the ground and the sea. May their brief visit be an enjoyable one.

Queen's University, Kingston, has received a literary windfall in the form of the library and papers of the late John Buchan, Lord Tweedsmuir. The magnificent collection should be an important stimulus to literature in this country.

In Moscow, according to Allied intelligence, there has recently been set up an institute for the study of African problems. If there were no African problems there can be no doubt but that the institute would soon produce a few.

A painting by an 8-year-old boy was smuggled into an exhibition of modern art at Birmingham and remained undetected during the 10-day showing. It raises the question of whether a work of an established modern would be detected in an exhibition of the work of 8-year-olds.

Bacon in Canada will continue to be a hog product under a ruling of the Health Department. The decision was made necessary by the marketing in the United States and to some extent in this country of "beef brisket bacon", a name which the Department very properly considers not only improper but also deceptive.

Search and rescue operations have assumed great importance in a country as vast and air-minded as this. There is considerable interest, therefore, in recent demonstrations of a device known as SARAH for automatically pushing out a radio signal on which a search aircraft can be "homed". The unit weighs just over three pounds and has a range of 70 miles for search aircraft at 10,000 feet.

The Spanish Armada was defeated this date 1588. The 130 great war galleons and 30 smaller ships were designed to conquer England and carried no less than 29,843 men and 2360 guns. It was to have joined a land force in Flanders but sailed towards Plymouth instead. Lord Howard of Effingham and his lieutenants Drake, Hawkins and Frobisher, harried the enemy for a week until they took refuge in Calais. Then in a six-hour fight, begun by sending in fire-ships, the Spaniard's best ships were destroyed. The survivors escaped largely because the English ran out of powder but many were wrecked returning home by way of the Orkneys. Only 54 made the return journey.

The Poet's Corner

FROM "THUS THE MAYNE GLIDEETH"
And scarce it pushes its gentle way through strangling rushes
Where the glossy kingfisher flutters when noon-heats are near.
Glad the shelving banks to shun
Red and steaming in the sun,
Where the shrew-mouse with pale throat
Burrows and the speckled stoat;
Where the quick sandpipers flit
In and out the marl and grit
That seems to breed them, brown as they;
Naught disturbs its quiet way,
Save some lazy stork that springs,
Trailing it with legs and wings,
Whom the shy fox from the hill
Rouses, creep he ne'er so still.

—Robert Browning

Old Charlottetown and P. E. I.

CRICKET VICTORY CELEBRATED

"In our last issue we stated that the Charlottetown Cricket Club having been challenged by the Thistle Cricket Club of Halifax, on the repeated defeats of the Pictou Islanders—a contest between the Islanders and Nova Scotians for the palm of victory was to come off at Truro on Friday, the 18th. We thought at the time that the Islanders showed more pluck than discretion in accepting the challenge of the Halifaxians, and going forth to fight them on their own ground. Most gratifyingly, however, we have been disappointed, for a despatch arrived on the night, conveying the pleasing intelligence that the Islanders were victorious.

"The news was received in the Reading Room with most enthusiastic cheers. A subscription was immediately opened by Capt. W. Walsh, the secretary of the Reading Room, and several other admirers of cricket, to get up a supper at the Volunteer Banquet Room of the victorious eleven, and a committee appointed to carry out forthwith the arrangements.

"On Saturday evening Pownal Wharf was densely crowded, as the 'Heather Belle' steamed up about 9 o'clock; and cheer on cheer rent the air, as she approached the wharf. The Volunteer Band was in attendance, and headed the victors and their friends as they marched, as well as the throng would permit, in procession to the hotel, where a very creditable spread, consisting of meats, fowls, vegetables, pastries, wines, etc., had been prepared. There were about eighty in attendance. H. Hassard, Esq., acting as chairman, Toasts were proposed, eliciting speeches from Hon. J. Longworth, F. Brecken, Esq., Dr. Jenkins, H. Hassard and Mr. A. McNeill.

"The members of the Charlottetown Club who played at Truro were: Messrs. Daniel Davies, John Brecken, John T. Jenkins, R. R. Hodgson, Albert Henry, George D. Atkinson, A. H. Yates, Louis H. Davies, Francis Longworth, Jr., James Peake, Harry C. Binns, and Wm. Fethick, umpire."
—The Vicindicator, Sept. 21, 1954.

Lorna Doone Country

National Geographic Society
England has a new national park familiar to many who have never set foot in the land across the sea. It covers the "Lorna Doone" country of northern Devonshire and western Somerset, with highlands that roll down to the Bristol Channel.

Lynmouth, on the Channel, is the gateway to the region. A popular seaside resort, it made disaster headlines two summers ago when flood waters of the Lyn River, fed by heavy rains on the upper moors, broke their banks and raged through the town.

Lorna Doone fanciers visiting the modern park can see for themselves the purple, hill-fringed moors, the wooded valleys and rocky glens just as Blackmore described them.

Only Doone Valley, hideout of the titled Doone outlaws who relieved lonely wayfarers of purse and goods, is less well known, and is noted than pictured by the author. The valley lies off Badworthy Water, the stream that adds its force, as Blackmore noted long ago, to the turbulence of the Lyn.

Exmoor's simple villages, like Brendon, Simonsbath, and Oare, carry on much as they did in the story told by the hero — honest yeomanfarmer John Ridd. Oare, near the Ridd family place, was the focal point of the tale. Its medieval church was the scene of one of the most dramatic incidents of the book, Carver Doone's attempted shooting of the heroine, Lorna, during her wedding to John Ridd.

Southward over the moor the villain fled, to meet his death in the black bog of the Clowen Rocks, after a hand-to-hand battle there with the giant Ridd.

The name John Ridd lingers on today, heritage of the real-life family that lived there for centuries. Parish notices still kept in Oare's little grey church bear the signature "John Ridd, Churchwarden."

For visitors uninterested in literary ghosts, Exmoor (named for the River Exe) offers some of England's best trout and salmon fishing, as well as the traditional stag hunt and red-deer chase, practiced today as they were in Norman times.

Much of this region is still untamed, despite the busy villages with their famous garden teas, strawberry shortcake and dotted cream.

The tough moor grasses support cattle and sheep, but a thin, poor soil long defied crop raising. One ambitious farming effort in the 19th century was a complete failure, leaving behind only the

The Neighbors By George Clark



"I picked some vacation spot. It had tennis, swimming, music—and as nice a bunch of girls as you'd meet anywhere!"

NOTES BY THE WAY

"It's always the little devil next door who starts a fight with your little angel." —Sudbury Daily Star.

Very often the Prince charming turns out to be just one of the pumpkin seeds. —Moose Jaw Times-Herald.

What would the white man have done in North America if the Indians hadn't thought up all those names for summer resorts? —Hamilton Spectator.

The office grinch wants to know why it is his young son couldn't spell anything tougher than a three-letter word until he started beating his dad at scrabble. —Hamilton Spectator.

The straw hat, we note, has come back into fashion in this city. Even the younger men are reported as participating in the return to the hat. Personally, we never thought a man looking completely dressed on the street without a hat. But then, we're probably considered old-fashioned. —St. Catharines Standard.

—On landing in England recently Sir Winston Churchill carried some unusual baggage, purchased in Canada. It included "two cases of Canadian apples, a large drum of old Canadian cheddar cheese and a cardboard box marked 'Stelson Hats' and adorned with pictures of bucking bronchos and cowboys". Since he was in Canada only for a day or two and never west of the Ottawa river, the British Prime Minister has managed to take home with him a pretty comprehensive cross-section of Canadian life. —Winnipeg Free Press.

ruined mansion of the once wealthy would be farmer. Another experiment during World War I also met with failure. Finally, however, food shortage of World War II led Somerset County to organize an all-out assault on the land, aided by American farm machinery supplied under Lend-Lease.

It was successful, and now thousands of Exmoor acres produce much-needed oats and potatoes.

The educational heads of Wyandotte, Mich., have followed through on that old axiom that "clothes make the man". As well as making the gentlemen, their conclusion runs, they also can make the bum, for their theory is that "if you dress like a hobo you're more apt to act like one." For that reason, blue jeans are banned as school attire, in this instance for boys. Jeans and slacks for girls have been on the banned list for several years. —Windsor Daily Star.

It was therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect.

The Age Old Story

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VOICES FROM THE PAST
II
(Further excerpts from statements made in 1905 by certain prominent Canadian citizens—most of them parliamentarians—in reply to an American journalist who had asked whether they would be in favour of a Canada-United States merger.)
James T. Schell, M.P. for Glenora, Ontario, quoted Canada's advantages and ventured a little prophecy in support of his very definite "No"—"We have three-fifths of the wheat area of North America; rich in minerals, timber, and fisheries; with free lands, free schools, a free people, with the best administrative laws in the world. I venture to say that before 2000 A.D. the Northern States will seek annexation with Canada. No; leave us alone; we are going forward under better conditions as we are."
Senator William MacDonald of Glace Bay, Nova Scotia, was brief and to the point: "The Canadian people desire—and the desire is growing steadily, gaining strength as the young Canadian grows—to become the foremost part of the British Empire."

E. Clarke, M.P. for Toronto, wrote in much the same vein: "As far as I am aware, there is no desire in any part of this Dominion to be 'absorbed' or to be 'merged' in the United States. Canadians prefer their own institutions and wish to work out their own destiny as an integral part of the world Empire of Britain."
C. B. Heyd, M.P. for Brantford, wrote in this manner: "We propose to manage our own affairs in our own way. We would rather be boss in our own shanty than play second fiddle even in the great orchestra of the United States. Canada has a great future. We are just beginning to realize the greatness of our resources. The 'Maple Leaf', not the 'Stars and Stripes', is going to continue to be the emblem of the Canadian people."

The Hon. M. K. Richardson of Flesherton, Ontario, had this to say: "Our separate national life will be a blessing to the United States if in friendly rivalry we go on striving to develop and perfect a higher civilization than the world has yet known, and in peace and amity leading in the van of the world's progress to the great summit of human hopes."
Joseph Matheson, M.P. for Nova Scotia, was of this opinion: "We have the greatest country on earth; greater in the brain, bone, and sinew of our people. Our chief want is more people to settle in our rich country. We have room for as many of your people as wish to come, but they must be law abiding."

Walter Scott, M.P. for Regina, was both eloquent and prophetic in this view: "My belief is that, before these countries approach closer relations, a much closer relation than exists now will be brought about between Canada, Britain and the other parts of the Empire; and that, at a later period, the United States and the British Empire, comprising the English-speaking world, without loss of separate autonomy, will unite in commercial and international affairs."
The French-Canadians who were polled were no more in favour of merger than were their English-speaking neighbours. Armand Lavergne of Montmagny, Quebec, wrote in this fashion: "In 1776 all French-Canadians were annexationists, except a very few. But when the American Congress let them know that they would not have the liberty of their religion (sic), tongue, and laws, their minds changed altogether, and more so when Washington prevented Lafayette's expedition in this country. Now we trust in Providence and hope that we will escape the destiny of becoming Americans. Not that we have any hatred for our neighbours; on the contrary, we have had many relations of friendship. But my ambition is for my country alone, a nation by herself, respected by others as she would respect them."
Senator Legris of Louisville, Quebec, expressed this opinion: "I think the destiny of Canada is to become an independent country, living, working, and progressing side by side with her good neighbour, the United States. The Hon. Philippe Demers of Montreal wrote in much the same vein: "Our laws are more respected, our trusts less powerful, struggles between capital and labour are less violent. Allow me as a French-Canadian to add that here we are in a minority which is sure to be respected because it is strong; with you we should be a negligible quantity."

Z. Tarte, M.P. for Montreal, a former member of the Laurier Cabinet, and the proprietor of the influential newspaper La Patrie, summed up what he considered to be the popular French-Canadian view this way: "I firmly believe the United States are big enough without us and that we are big enough without them. Canada is a happy country. We feel capable of developing our national wealth. We are free. We enjoy the blessings of self-government under the British flag. To sum up, I beg to say that, at this moment, there is not in Canada a shadow of a feeling toward political union with your country. We wish you God-speed and we want to paddle our canoe ourselves."

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