

THE GUARDIAN

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"The Strongest Memory is Weaker Than the Weakest Ink"

"Gorphywsfa"

"Gorphywsfa" sounds an awful lot like something Comrade Vishinsky might say in the middle of a hot UN debate.

A lot of Canadians are going to say something that sounds like "Gorphywsfa" but isn't when they find out that the taxpayers' bill for purchasing, redecorating and remodelling the Prime Minister's residence will run to something around \$550,000.

This bit of extravagance is by no means the fault of Mr. St. Laurent. Quite the contrary. He never wanted an official residence in the first place.

Opposition members recently decided that the Leader of His Majesty's Loyal Opposition also rated a residence in the Capital commensurate with the dignity of his office.

Comic Books

Comic books are a phenomenon of the times, like the dime novel of a generation ago or the "penny dreadful" of an earlier era.

They have been legislated against, at least crime comics have been, but until recently it seemed that no one capable of writing a report had read them.

Surveying the 135 titles available (no wonder they seem to be in endless profusion), Mr. Vogan has reassured the Board that there seems to be "no significant influence exerted by comics on intelligence quotient, educational achievement, social or personal adjustment."

"Children like comics because they are exciting and funny," Mr. Vogan states, "and because they give suspense, mystery and learning."

Parents can cease worrying about the comic books and start thinking about satisfying their children's normal needs by more creative and socially valuable activities in daily family life.

Fraudulent Voting

Montreal's municipal elections this year resulted in several alleged impersonators being arrested and a number of election officials being charged with fraud.

"Telegraphing," says the Ottawa Citizen, "is easily the most effective way of perpetrating an electoral fraud yet devised in Canadian politics."

their candidate. Such a ballot was given to the voter to be put in the ballot box; the voter then returned the fresh ballot given him by the returning officer to be used to buy the next man.

EDITORIAL NOTES

The last minute rush is on and will last till Saturday night.

The Canadian special force at Fort Lewis are to be home for Christmas after all, but not those in Korea.

We are told money is plentiful at present, and it would require to be defrayed the cost of Christmas luxuries deemed necessary these days.

The Greek letter khi, chi, comes into some prominence at this season when hurried people who have not caught the spirit of the season write the abbreviation Xmas.

The ladies seem to be taking to "be-some an' stane" or broom and stone here and are becoming the most enthusiastic of curlers.

President Truman's call to mobilize to oppose "Communist world conquest" is America's answer to the new threat to freedom.

Joseph William Mallord Turner, English artist, died this date 1851. He began exhibiting at the early age of fifteen, and was a R.A. at twenty-eight.

The Egyptian Parliament has applauded a proposal to make agreements with Communist-block countries and use these agreements to pry concessions from the Western powers.

The R. C. A. F. is not far from finishing its job, begun in 1921, of mapping this country by means of aerial photography.

The flying of a 349-year-old Gordon flag at Aboyne, Aberdeenshire, has brought forth many reminiscences including the fact that the Gordon Highlanders were raised by the fifth Duke of Gordon whose duchess gave each man a shilling and a kiss to join.

Parliament may be called into session three weeks ahead of time "in the public interest." When the special session ended in September, it was adjourned until Feb. 14, with the provision, however, that it might be summoned into session earlier if "the public interest requires that the House (of Commons) should meet at an earlier time during the adjournment."

La Patrie, Montreal, warns its readers that soon Europe may be the "hot spot" and counsels restraint and cool heads in regard to Asiatic affairs.

"Tsk, Tsk! And Me With Only One Gift!"



Britain and Egypt

(By W. N. Ewer)

Just what are the issues between Britain and Egypt which have been raised again by the speech from the Throne at the opening of the Egyptian Parliament? First of all, it seems important to make clear what they are not.

It is not in any way a question of British control over Egypt; for there is no such control. It is not a question of British military occupation of Egypt.

It must be stressed that this was a freely negotiated treaty. I can vouch for the fact that Nahas Pasha, who signed for the Egyptian Government, was not only satisfied but delighted with the result.

Britain and Egypt as "sovereign independent States" entered into an alliance and one of the terms of that alliance was that Britain would undertake the defence of the Suez Canal "until the Egyptian Army is in a position to ensure by its own resources" that defence.

This is the legal position. There can be no question that the treaty is still in force, no question of its terms violating Egyptian Sovereignty in any way.

The first difficulty has been that the Egyptian Government has repeatedly demanded that any revision must be based upon the complete and immediate evacuation of the Canal Zone by the British forces stationed there for its defence.

The problem, therefore, seems to the U.K. Government purely a practical one. The first consideration must be the provision of an adequate and effective defence system for the Canal, for Egypt and for the Middle East.

There is then no question of British occupation of Egypt. There is no question of violation of Egyptian sovereignty. That the presence of troops of one ally on the territory of another is no violation of sovereignty is attested by the North Atlantic Treaty.

But there is another Egyptian demand as well. It is for the immediate British evacuation of Sudan. The immediate liquidation of the present Sudan administration and the immediate union of Sudan with Egypt.

Again in law there is no question that this demand is in complete contradiction with the provisions of the 1936 treaty.

Now in recent years, under the present regime, really remarkable social and economic progress has

Old Charlottetown

(And P. E. I.)

OBITUARY

"Died, in the Lunatic Asylum, on Monday, the 6th inst., of senile decay, John Campbell, mariner, R. N., aged 88 years. In his younger days he sailed in Lord Nelson's fleet, and bore a hand in Lord Exmouth's own ship at the bombardment of Algiers.

It would be a tragedy if anything were to disturb this. And a sudden British withdrawal would not merely disturb. It would disrupt. The Egyptians have neither the administrators nor the organization to take over. A strong section of Sudanese would forcibly resist any attempt to impose Egyptian rule.

But that is not all. The Sudanese have already been given self-governing institutions. They have been promised that these shall be developed as rapidly as possible until they are completely self-governing.

It is out of the question that the Sudanese should now be told that this promised freedom is now revoked, and that whether they wish it or not they are to be the subjects of the King of Egypt. It would be impossible in principle and disastrous in practice.

So, apart from every other consideration these two Egyptian demands seem in London to be neither practicable nor realistic.

The Poet's Corner

WISDOM

No man e'er found a happy life by chance; Or yawned it into being with a wish; Or with the snout of grovelling appetite E'er smelt it out, and grubbed it from the dirt.

Edmund Spenser, "The Shepherd's Calendar," "January."

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to top it all - a fingertip atomizer. Bouquet Lenthéric. Johnston & Johnston. Prescription Druggists. Phone 33.

Notes By The Way

Whatever happened to corks? We used to get them every time we bought a bottle of something at the corner drug store.

A house burned down the other day because the woman who saw the fire break out was unable to telephone to the fire department.

There is a movement in North-west Ontario to split this old province. They would take that vast area from Sault Ste. Marie to the Manitoba boundary, and running up and up to Hudson Bay, give it a capital, a lieutenant-governor and a legislature and all the paraphernalia of provincial status.

The Age-Old Story

But with me it is a very small thing that I should be judged of you, or of man's judgment: yes, I judge not mine ownself, for I know nothing by myself; yet am I not hereby justified; but he that judgeth me is the Lord.

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