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

For some time, Protestant Churches with missionary bases in Asia have been transferring their properties and leadership to local groups, a policy which is expedient if they hope to continue their influence amid a rising tide of nationalism.

The latest transfer of considerable size was made by the Presbyterian Church in the U.S.A. It gave away its entire missionary field in Thailand, where missionaries have been at work for 130 years. The property, consisting of churches, medical and agricultural schools, will henceforth be controlled by the Church of Christ in Thailand, a union of several Protestant bodies. The parent Church, however, will continue to give the field \$370,000 annually, the amount it has been spending on missionary work in Thailand. This will mean that fewer missionaries will be going from the West to Thailand. Indeed, in recent years missionaries have been going from Thailand to other Asiatic countries. Some of them have even come to the United States; a few are serving on missionary boards in the parent Church.

The Presbyterian Church seems to have taken the lead among the Protestant denominations in this policy of transferring responsibility to indigenous Churches. Last year three missions in India became part of the United Church of Northern India; and missions in Japan, the Philippines and Chile were transferred soon after World War Two. Another field, that in the French Cameroons, will pass into the hands of the local Church sometime this fall.

The Roman Catholic Church has always set as its goal the building of native hierarchies in the mission field, reserving, of course, the important link with the Holy See. As for the Anglican Church, including the Protestant Episcopal Church in the United States, the Churches in China and Japan have been, for all practical purposes, autonomous for several years.

Statistics In Religion

Whatever the reasons for it and whatever may be its significance on the life of the respective countries, there is more visible interest in organized religion in the United States than in Britain. This is the main conclusion reached in a survey conducted jointly by the American Institute of Public Opinion and the British Institute of Public Opinion.

Following are some of the statistics gathered in the survey: On any given Sunday morning in the early months of this year, on a proportional basis there were more than three times as many people in church in the United States as there were in Britain. 51 per cent of American adults attend church more or less regularly, compared with only 14 per cent in Britain. Incidentally, the American figure is the highest ever reported by the Institute. The reverse is true in Britain, where 1 in every 4 admitted that he used to go to church more frequently than he does now. Nearly 4 out of 10 said that they "hardly ever" attend church.

To the question: "Should the Church express itself boldly on social and political matters?" 36 per cent of Britons and 47 per cent of Americans said "yes". Answering the question "Do you think that a person can be a Christian even if he doesn't believe that every word of the New Testament is true?" 79 per cent of Americans and 66 per cent of Britons said they thought so. In both countries a majority said they believed in life after death; but almost twice as many Britons as Americans either refuted the idea or were uncertain about it. A majority of Americans believes "there is a devil"; a majority of Britons does not. 27 per cent of Britons said

they regarded religion as "out of date." Only 7 per cent of Americans subscribed to that view.

Finally—and perhaps most surprising of all—81 per cent of Americans interviewed said that they believe religion can find the solution to most of today's problems, while in Britain more people think that politics wields a greater influence on the way people live than does organized religion.

A Good Suggestion

Both labour unions and industry, the two arbiters of 20th century economy, realize the dangers of inflation, but hitherto neither side has been willing to take serious and meaningful steps to combat them. The pattern has been increase in wages followed by increase in prices followed by increase in wages followed by increase in prices. That, stripped of technical phraseology, which doesn't add anything to it, is what inflation means; and seemingly there is no end to it. At least, there won't be any end to it until such times as the two great forces in economic affairs can join hands to apply the curbs.

It is, therefore, heartening to hear that Mr. Walter P. Reuther, head of the powerful United Auto Workers Union, has made an overture to the automobile industry in an effort to make a tangible beginning in the fight against inflation. His suggestion is that the major companies cut prices on their 1938 models by an average of at least \$100 a car. In return, the A.A.W. would modify its new contract demands downwards when they come up for review next year. Mr. Reuther calls this "a positive and practical proposal for making an effective beginning in stopping and reversing the inflationary trend." He says it is based on "an old maxim in collective bargaining that you cannot draw water from a stone."

It is, of course, true that one industry and one union cannot by themselves remove the dangers of inflation, or even impede their progress, by a stroke of the pen. But it would be, as Mr. Reuther says, a beginning; and their has to be a beginning before progress can be expected. And it may be that other industries and other unions would feel impelled to follow suit. At any rate, it sounds like a good suggestion.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Canadian cheddar is still ahead of its competitors in Britain, selling for 44.02 per 100 pounds, as compared with 32.90 for its nearest rival, Scotch cheddar.

Although the sale of margarine is prohibited in a few areas of Canada, its manufacture is big business. Last year imports of vegetable oils for the purpose were valued at nearly \$189½ million.

It seems likely that in the near future the United States will withdraw some of its forces from foreign bases. This is indicated in a statement issued by General Twining, the new chairman of the joint chiefs of staff, at his first news conference. "Our forces were never intended to be abroad indefinitely," he said.

Officials of A. V. Roe Ltd., the firm which is eager to take over control of the Dominion Steel and Coal Corporation, have denied that the company's interests in other industries might be detrimental to the interests of DOSCO. That may be. But evidently the Nova Scotia Government and Mayors of cities where DOSCO is the chief source of employment and, consequently, of economic strength, would like something more tangible than a simple declaration of good intentions. And who can blame them?

According to a member of the U.S. House of Representatives Appropriations Committee, only 16 of the 86 countries of the world are not getting American financial aid in one form or another. That is one reason, doubtless, why the President's financial estimates in that field are reduced by the Congress at every opportunity. Rightly or wrongly, the feeling is growing among Americans that they are being imposed upon, especially by governments which have no intention of taking a firm stand with the free world in the cold war.



CARRYING ON

Nasser Is Squeezed

William Z. Ryan, Associated Press

Events in Syria appear to have dealt a heavy blow to Egypt's President Nasser. Indications are that he is being pushed into an uncomfortable squeeze which eventually may force him to choose between full collaboration with the Soviet bloc or reconciliation with the West.

Syria's current army shakeup, indicating an ever closer alignment of Damascus with Moscow, tends to shatter Nasser's hopes of persuading Arab leaders of the Middle East to deal as a single bloc with the West. The high command of Syria's army has been taken over by Afif Bizry, promoted by presidential decree from lieutenant-colonel to commander-in-chief and chief of staff. He is known throughout the Middle East as, at the least, an extreme leftist.

There have been a number of indications that Nasser is greatly disturbed. One of these hints is in the treatment by the controlled Egyptian press of recent Syrian economic negotiations in Moscow. The Cairo press gave only factual, terse coverage, although Cairo's propaganda radio went all-out to back Syria's charges of an American plot against the Damascus regime.

Arab sources say Nasser, indeed, has been doing all in his power to shore up the conservative Populists in Syria. They say it was Nasser who persuaded President Shukri Kuwalty not to resign last time the leftists moved in on army control. He is said to have urged Kuwalty to stay as a means of barring the extreme leftists from full power.

These sources say there is little doubt that Col. Abdul Hamid Ser-

rai young chief of Syria's army intelligence, remains the strong man in Syria behind the scenes. But they look upon Bizry as dangerous. A Lebanese by birth, Bizry remained in Syria after serving with French colonial troops before the war.

There is some expectation among Arab sources that eventually the defence minister, Khalid Azem, will emerge as president in place of Kuwalty, and that Akram Haurani will become premier in place of Sabri Assali. Haurani is head of the leftist Baath party which supports Serrai.

Azem is a multimillionaire landowner in the old feudal style, perhaps the biggest in Syria. He has political ambitions. Back from his Moscow negotiations, he has hailed Soviet help as a means of making the country strong. He has invited in Soviet experts and technicians who ostensibly will supervise such things as the building of roads, railways and sea and air transport facilities, in addition to other projects.

"The Soviet Union has given us political support and supplied us with arms which we were unable to obtain other than from the Soviet union," Azem said in his formal report. That, more than anything else, seemed to be the key to the growing Soviet influence in Syria, which some fear eventually will permit the Soviet Union to emerge as a Mediterranean power. To do this, however, the Soviet Union seeks more concrete forms of collaboration from Nasser, to an extent which the Egyptian leader does not seem willing to go.

White Russians In China

David Hotham, Canadian Press

Although they are from the same country, living together in a foreign land, yet they pass in the streets with never a word. They speak the same language, but when they meet there is no flicker of recognition.

They are the White Russians and the Red Russians of Harbin, in Red China's far northeast. Who are the Red Russians? They are the Soviet technicians helping the Chinese run their factories and train their industrial workers. The hotels and official places here are full of them.

Who are the White Russians? They are the pathetic remnant of a once prosperous colony of 150,000, who first settled here in czarist days, and whose numbers were later replenished by refugees from the Russian revolution. Having fled from one Communist revolution, they found themselves engulfed in another. They fled from Red Russia in 1917; in 1949 Red China submerged them.

Everywhere in this strange city, still Russian in its architecture and in many of its characteristics, one sees these relics of a former day. They are poorly dressed and most of them are unemployed. They have little now to do but eke out their lives and dream about the past.

NUMBERS DWINDLE Their numbers have dwindled over the years and today less than 7,000 remain of the vast colony of former times. Many have departed in recent years and many more have applied to go. Red China has no use for them and makes no objection to their going.

A spokesman for the central council of the Soviet Overseas Association in Harbin said that of about 35,000 Russians living in Harbin in 1949, 25,000 had returned to the Soviet Union at the invitation of the Soviet government. Others, he said, went to Australia, South America, Israel and Turkey.

But members of the White Russian community said only about 7,000 went to the Soviet Union, with 10,000 or more going to other countries in the West. They

said there was extreme pressure on White Russians from the Soviet consulate in Harbin to get them to go to the Soviet Union. There are regular services of the Greek Orthodox Church in Harbin, but no religious instruction in the schools for Russian children. Russian priests remain but their chief is a Chinese. They function under the bureau of religious affairs in Peiping.

Better System

Winnipeg Free Press Mr. Harkness, now the Minister of Agriculture, wrote recently to MPs of all parties asking them to submit a list of names of people who, they think, regardless of politics, would make good inspectors (under Prairie Farm Assistance). Appointments will be made on the basis of these lists. The Government deserves credit for this move. While the Liberals were in power at Ottawa, PFAA appointments were undoubtedly influenced by Liberal MPs and defeated Liberal candidates, who often recommended their own supporters for PFAA jobs.

The new approach reflects a faith on the part of the Government in the fairness and integrity of the new members of Parliament. It is to be hoped that it does not prove to be misplaced.

Old Fashioned

Kingston Whig-Standard The Russians are certainly living in the past. Mr. K. I. Sergitshuk, deputy minister of postal and electrical communications in Russia, who is visiting this country, has admitted that Russian postmen make four deliveries a day! Not only that, but they must deliver mail to all floors. We seem to remember a day in the dim past when people in

The Poet's Corner

LIGHTHOUSE KEEPER

This lighthouse keeper is a lonely man. Some folks might say, left here all by himself. Tending his light according to a plan That never varies; on a rocky shelf He passes months and years in solitude. And yet he is not lonely for he knows Companionship with which he is endowed. A wellspring that throughout each moment flows. Bringing him happiness and deep content. He does not miss the people of a town For with the ocean friendly hours are spent. Watching the waves that wear a snowy crown, Scanning at night the moon and stars on high. Eternal majesty of sea and sky. —Louise Darcy in The Christian Science Monitor

OUR YESTERDAYS

TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO (August 22, 1937) The management of the Great Air Meet to be held at Upton Airport on Wednesday has received word closing the contract with the celebrated Leaves Brothers Flying Circus of Toronto with a personnel of seven, and four aircraft. Besides this group there will also be several other outstanding performers. This first air meet at Upton Airport is expected to draw a large crowd to watch the aviators perform.

The light house at the East end of Summerside was almost destroyed by fire last evening and only the alertness of several children playing in the vicinity prevented the loss. Mr. Fred Mutart, keeper of the light, had lit the lamp and a short time later had gone to see a sick friend. In a short time the children noticed smoke coming from the top of the lighthouse and the fire department was notified. The blaze was quickly extinguished.

TEN YEARS AGO

(August 22, 1947) The first inspection of potato fields entered for seed certification is completed, and the inspection service reports that to date most Cobblers and Katahdins have passed with very little disease. The total acreage entered for inspection this year 32,250, is only slightly less than that of last year.

About 70 delegates to the convention of the Canadian Federation Home and School Associations who met in annual convention during the week at Sackville paid a visit to the province yesterday. The visitors were welcomed by Premier J. Walter Jones and Mr. L. W. Shaw, Provincial Director of Education.

MAXIMS

A man's own conscience is his sole tribunal, and he should care no more for that phantom "opinion" than he should fear meeting a ghost if he crossed the churchyard at dark.

Canada got mail twice a day. That was some time ago. Modern progress has not only stopped that kind of nonsense but it has also demonstrated that just because we travel faster now it doesn't necessarily mean that our mail travels faster too. By no means! In fact, just the opposite is true nowadays. Things are organized — but not for the benefit of the public.

Air Travel For Ailing Persons

By Herman N. Bundesen, M.D. Even though you are under a doctor's care, it may be perfectly all right for you to travel by air. As a matter of fact, it's estimated that about 1,000,000 of the 34,500,000 passengers flown by regularly scheduled United States airlines in a single 12-month period suffered from some disease or disability.

COMMON COLD

The types of ailments ranged in severity from the common cold to advanced stages of cancer. While there are some important exceptions — many of which we have discussed in an earlier column — the great majority of ambulatory patients can fly with no ill effects. Many patients may find air travel the most convenient, comfortable and least fatiguing way to get about. This may be a determining factor when a patient is going somewhere for rest and convalescence.

ALLERGIC AND SENSITIVE

If you're allergic and sensitive to air-borne allergens, you'll probably find relief while flying because of the absence of excitants. Patients in status asthmaticus probably had better not fly. However, flying usually is all right for those with mild asthma if they travel between attacks.

But occasionally an asthmatic may have an attack brought on by tension created by any kind of travel.

A word of caution is in order for patients with colostomies who plan to fly. During ascent you will find the colostomy bag tends to fill rapidly. Better be sure to empty it just before departure time.

BODY CAVITIES

As a plane ascends, the gases in closed body cavities expand because of decreased atmospheric pressure.

The expansion of these gases may endanger anyone with appendicitis or deeply eroded peptic ulcers or some other serious weakness of the gastrointestinal wall.

In short, if you are in doubt, ask your doctor whether you can fly. And if he's not sure, or you can't locate him, check with the medical director of the airline you plan to use. He'll give you expert guidance.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

J.D.: What foods should one watch with hardening of the arteries?

Answer: There is no one definite food which should be avoided. However, it is believed by some authorities that the restriction of certain foods high in cholesterol or fat is of aid in preventing the progress of hardening of the arteries.

The Age Old Story

In quietness and in confidence shall be your strength.

NOTES BY THE WAY

Trying to discover just what a Russian shakeup means is like watching two cats fight in a gunny sack and making a guess at which one is winning.—Hamilton Spectator

Today's bar of soap is so full of miracle ingredients to soften your hair and make you nice to be near that sometimes you might wonder whether there's enough room left for whatever it is that's supposed to get the dirt off.—Hamilton Spectator

The birds don't mind apparently, but the foxes are baffled by the noisy devices of an Ontario farmer to keep them away from his 1,500 turkeys. At sundown the turkeys settle down for the night to the strains of rock 'n' roll, singing commercials and the latest news and weather reports. The farmer had three radios and five loudspeakers installed on his turkey farm. By daylight the set is silent, but when dusk comes and the foxes start roaming, the radios start blaring. The foxes keep away from human sounds, unable to distinguish between what is broadcast and what is on the spot.—Cape Breton Record

The harvest sown by the Ottawa area last year when the district failed to set up a coordinated mosquito-spraying organization is now being reaped. Assisted by Hurricane Audrey which flooded many fields in the district and thus encouraged fresh mosquito breeding, the present mosquito crop has flourished and is making everyone's life miserable.—Ottawa Citizen

A man who has driven an automobile for many years without causing an accident or being involved in a serious accident has as much right to be proud of his achievement as though he had written a book or composed a prize-winning poem. It does not just happen that some drivers have accidents and others do not. There is some luck involved, of course, but it is certainly not the factor which divides them. The quality of the driving is the real difference.—Cape Breton Post

Somebody swiped a 15-cent merry-go-round from a Los Angeles amusement park. Now here is a mystery that must have the cops going around in circles.—St. Catharines Standard

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