

Published every week-day morning at 136 Prince Street, Charlottetown, P. E. I., by The Thomson Company Limited.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 25, 1955

The Paris Agreements

The few members of Parliament who have indicated their intention of voting against ratification of the Paris Agreements will, of course, not be able to hinder, or even delay, the passage of the proposed legislation.

It would be a mistake, however, to suppose that the dissidents are speaking only for themselves and, perhaps, their constituents. The fact is that there is a good deal of opposition in this country, and in all other free countries, to the principle of West German rearmament, especially among those who have had personal experience with militarism in one or other of the Great Wars.

However anyone may feel about the political possibilities of the Paris Agreements, the simple fact of modern history is that West German co-operation is essential to European security. This will be difficult enough to achieve in any case; with an unfriendly West Germany or a West Germany rendered indifferent by the application of old fears to new conditions, on the part of other Western powers, it would be quite impossible.

Parliamentary opponents to the measure now before the Commons are, of course, entitled to their opinions, and it would be quite wrong for anyone to impugn their motives. At the same time it is hard to see how they can find justification for their stand in the realities of the present world situation.

Burns Anniversary

The anniversary of the birth of Scotland's greatest poet has long since ceased to be a merely national event. Wherever his songs have been sung, his poems read or recited, they have touched the human heart in such a manner as to leave no doubt as to the universality of his genius.

The affectations of his style are insignificant and rare. His prevailing characteristic is an absolute sincerity. He compared himself to an Aeolian harp, strung to every wind of heaven, and it is true that his genius flowed over all living and lifeless things with a sympathy that found nothing mean or insignificant. An uprooted daisy became on his pages an enduring emblem of the fate of artless maid and simple bard.

Sir Walter Scott, as a lad of fifteen, saw Burns when he came to Edinburgh to be welcomed, feasted, admired and patronized by the literati of his day. Who were these pundits of popular taste? Nobody knows now or cares. But what Scott's keen young eye saw on that occasion is still of human interest. "His person was robust, his manners rustic, not clownish. . . His countenance

was more massive than it looks in any of the portraits. There was a strong expression of shrewdness in his lineaments; the eye alone indicated the poetic character and temperament. It was large and of a dark cast, and literally glowed when he spoke. I never saw such another eye in a human head. His conversation expressed perfect self-confidence, without the least intrusive forwardness." And Scott adds, as a footnote to the portrait: "He was much caressed in Edinburgh, but the efforts made for his relief were extremely trifling."

The traditional Burns anniversary concert is being held here this evening under the auspices of Zion Men's Association, and no doubt will draw a large attendance both from rural and urban centres. It has done so for years, and long may it continue as a source of entertainment and inspiration on this memorable day!

Agricultural Revolution

That revolutionary changes are under way in agriculture has been noted by many commentators. A thoughtful contribution to this subject has been made by Mr. Wilfred L. Bishop, secretary of the Oxford, Ontario, Federation of Agriculture in an editorial appearing in the Sentinel-Review. To many of us, says Mr. Bishop, the Industrial Revolution is perhaps something out of the dim past rather than currently at our elbow. More accurately perhaps it has been a business phenomena which has been with us since the invention of the steam engine and periodically heralds business innovations. Farm economists used to talk of 1910 bringing in an era of commercialized rather than self-sufficient agriculture, but in the years following the Second World War, changes and mechanization have affected agriculture at such an ever increasing rate that in all probability 1950 will be the most likely milestone of the future.

How far this trend may go and what form it may take is not yet too clear. Revolutionary changes have already struck the poultry branch of farming, bringing specialized breeds and strains of birds for broiler production, egg production, capons or what you will. These along with the mechanization of poultry chores are promising to make poultry production a highly capitalized and specialized industry quite distinct from the traditional raising of a few hundred birds under ordinary farm conditions. The pattern of what may be in the making is more obscure in the case of hogs, cattle and various cash crops. There is, however, still reason to believe changes may be almost as significant in these branches of farming as well.

Sweeping business changes, even though the final effect may be good, often bring temporary disadvantages and harm to both individuals and firms. It may well be that the current surpluses which are so depressing to most branches of agriculture are at least accentuated by if not caused by these current changes.

The agricultural revolution will ultimately contribute to bringing in a better day for farmers and farm laborers and so strengthening our whole Canadian economy. The length of time it will take to turn disadvantages to advantages will largely depend upon the amount of team work which may be developed between agriculture and those branches of credit service, manufacturing and merchandising dealing with farmers, toward marketing problems, credit problems and other obstacles to the smooth performance of the new agriculture.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Somerset Maugham, noted English novelist and playwright, born this date, 1874. His semi-autobiographical novel, "Of Human Bondage", is highly rated, but perhaps his best work is contained in his shorter stories and social satires.

The decision of the Dundas Plowing Match Association to inaugurate a Maritime Championship class at next fall's fair will be welcomed by all plow enthusiasts. The more merrier. Glen Morrissey, the 20-year-old 1954 champion, will meet all comers gladly—win or lose. They will have to be good to beat him or any of the other Island champions.

In 1952, one out of every two persons killed in railway accidents died at highway crossings. One hundred and thirty-three out of 185 deaths occurred where these crossings were unprotected. At the end of 1952, 71.1 per cent of urban and 93.5 per cent of rural crossings had no protection, except for the familiar "cross-arms" that we have seen from time immemorial, and to which many people pay little heed.

Dairy farmers may have every reason in the world to send representatives to Ottawa "to demonstrate on Parliament Hill", as suggested by the secretary of the Ontario Federation of Agriculture. It is doubtful, however, that that sort of thing would have any good effect. Somehow, it does not seem to fit well with farmers. There must be better ways of bringing their just grievances to the attention of the Canadian people.



Burns Might Have Said It For Us

Auld Lang Syne

William Kean Seymour in The Edinburgh Scotsman. "Auld Lang Syne" is generally referred to as the best known, best loved, and most often sung of all Burns' songs. At this season of the year, it is safe to say that millions of men and women raise their voices and link arms and hands to the beat of its immortal tune.

The verses that followed, though in a different order, were substantially as we know them today. If we are puzzled why Burns chose a foreign wine for the celebration, we are even more mystified by his comment: "Light be the turf on the breast of the heaven-inspired poet who composed this glorious fragment!" Obviously, the Scottish elements in the old much-lingered song deeply attracted Burns. He must have savoured the magic phrases on his poetic palate until, five years later and three years before he died, he sent the final version to George Thomson, the music publisher, remarking that "the air is but mediocre, but the following song, the song of the olden times, and which has never been in print nor even in manuscript, until I took it down from an old man's singing, is enough to recommend any air."

When I came to the other convivial lines, "And surely ye'll be your pint-stowp, And surely I'll be mine" (meaning, "And surely ye'll be your own tin measure capable of holding two quarts English, And surely I'll be mine"), there were several earlier versions written long before Burns was born. One, quoted by Allan Ramsay from Herd's "Ancient and Modern Scottish Songs," uses the famous first line and part of the immortal refrain in its opening stanza. Should auld acquaintance be forgot, Tho' they return with scars? These are the noble hero's lot, I obtain'd in glorious wars: Welcome my Varo, to my breast, Thy arms about me twine, And make me once again as blest, As I was lang syne.

We recognize here authentic touches of folk-ministry, overlaid though they are with genteel sentiment. That is true, also, of a second version, in Watson's "Chloe Collection," the first volume of which appeared in 1706, the year before the Act of Union. The first stanza reads: Should old Acquaintance be forgot, And never thought upon, The Flames of Love extinguish'd, And freely past and gone? Is thy kind Heart now grown so cold, In the Loving Breast of thine, That thou canst never once reflect On Old-Lang-Syne? In their centenary edition, Henley and Henderson quote a broadsheet which was Watson's original: "An Excellent and proper new ballad, entitled 'Old Lang Syne.' Newly corrected and amended, with a large and new edition of several excellent love lines." This has an arm-pumping refrain that gets us nearer to our present manner of seeing the Old Year out:

On old long syne, On old long syne, my Jo, On old long syne, That thou canst never once reflect On old long syne, There it lay, then, in the old song-books, an inconspicuous and fanciful item and more English

And so Dr. Ladejinsky is back again in the ranks of respected civil servants, but the whole fiasco cannot help the United States build prestige abroad or encourage able men to enter its service at home. The great question of national security and individual freedom is assuming massive proportions in these days when fear of Communism has become almost an obsession in some quarters. Many humble servants are being dismissed through the powerful friends that Dr. Ladejinsky had, yet it is possible that some of them have

NOTES BY THE WAY

There are many reasons for a 5-year census. Canada is experiencing one of the fastest increases in population of any country in the world. Buying habits are shifting rapidly with the quick improvement in living standards and population. Business benefits when it has precise knowledge of the market and perhaps a 10-year census is no longer enough for this purpose. — Ottawa Citizen.

The carelessness of others is a prime menace on the highway. Many a driver caps, clouds, dust storms and seasonal weather changes. All of which lead science to wonder if Mars may also support some kind of human life — an intriguing possibility that earth's inhabitants have speculated upon for a long time. If there are Martians folk out there, can't afford good reason for not getting in touch with us. Possessed of what might be a vastly superior intellect, the Martians may regard us as slum-dwellers, bad-tempered neighbors whom they pay the occasional flying saucer visit but with whom they have no desire to mingle. — London Free Press

Old standards are used in different groups and in various lands to decide who is a person of distinction, says an exchange. In one village the family without a power mower does not rate, elsewhere it may be lack of a television set which sets the household apart. But in India the fountain pen denotes social status. The man of distinction there carries a fountain pen always, but many who aspire to that high estate can't afford even the cheapest of such pens. In that event they settle merely for the top — with the pocket clip, of course. One pen company on the continent has just received an order for 3,000 pen tops for social use only. Keeping up with the neighbors by acquiring a pen top may seem cheap to us and completely unenviable, says a writer, but to the man who gets a rupee a day or less — some days — the goal is about the same as a mink coat for the average housewife here. — Galt Reporter.

A firm and unqualified affirmation of the right of all accused persons to consult lawyers when taken into custody is set out in a report by Mr. Justice Roach. His strictures on some police methods follow an inquiry into charges made by youths, who were taken into custody as a result of disorder after a Varsity Stadium football game last November. The Justice restated the principle in the following terms: Arrested, with or without a warrant, the subject is entitled to know why he is deprived of his freedom, if only in order that he may, without a moment's delay, take such steps as to enable him to regain it.

Gen. Simonds in his Montreal speech did not fail to point out that any decision on universal training must be that of the Dominion Government, and that it would not likely be taken without assured popular backing. But it is also unlikely that he would be making such speeches if he did not think there was some prospect of action. The issue is one for the Government to grapple with and take the consequences. It does not hesitate to tax Canadians for a two-billion-dollar defense budget, that fails to provide adequate training for the citizen army on which we are to rely in the "second stage" of war — provided our theoretical first line holds long enough. — Toronto Telegram.

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also been dealt with unjustly. The whole affair points out the need of a thorough-going study of the whole security system. Most certainly subversion must be fought, but fair play and reason need not become casualties as well. The Democrats have promised a congressional investigation of the whole matter and in this they will win broad support. Perhaps the gyrations on the Ladejinsky affair will serve to quicken interest and sharpen perspectives on this vital question.

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The Poet's Corner

TO ROBERT BURNS Had we two met, blithe-hearted Burns, Though water is my daily drink, May God forgive me, but I think We should have roared our toasts by turns.

Inquisitive low whispering cares Had found no room in either pate, Until I asked thee, rather late, 'Is there a hand-rail to the stairs?' —Walter Savage Landor.

now indissolubly linked, and both words and music were printed for the first time in Thomson's "Scottish Airs" in 1790, three years after the poet's death. We need not pay too much regard to Burns' implicit denial of authorship. He was too fine an artist to wish to claim as his own lines that were rooted in the glorious past of Scottish song. None but he, however, could have achieved the evocative perfection of the two poignant middle verses, "We twa hae run about the braes" and "We twa hae paidlet i' the burn" or expressed so memorably the convivial lines already quoted. He had taken the re-made fragment of an old folk song and worked upon them lovingly until at last his singing sense was satisfied. The phrases, "auld acquaintance" and "auld lang syne" remained, blown upon with the breath of his genius, so that, in singing them, each successive generation recovers the memory of joys that seem to pass but yet remain eternal in the experience of mankind.

Dr. Ladejinsky's Trials

By Heath Macquarrie Questions concerning the loyalty of civil servants and measures for resisting Communist infiltration have been troubling American leaders for many months. The Senate condemnation of McCarthy was a mark of the disgust which his crude methods of investigation had provoked in the minds of many thoughtful citizens. But that such legislative arm of government is being painfully demonstrated in the case of the dismissals which the executive has ordered. The Oppenheimer, Davies and Condon cases have alarmed many people who wonder if the administration's whole security program has not gotten out of hand, or else become a political weapon by which the Republicans hope to establish themselves as the only vigilant defenders against the Communist menace.

But nothing the administration has done can rank with the Ladejinsky case in spreading confusion and concern about the whole security program. Like John Paton Davies, Dr. Ladejinsky has been in the civil service a long time, having joined the Agriculture Department in 1925. Over the years he built an outstanding reputation and after the war was sent to Japan to head the land reform program which the occupation forces were setting up. His services in this field were widely praised as being highly instrumental in forestalling Communism, and he received special recognition from General MacArthur in the Japanese government. In 1950 he became agricultural attaché at Tokyo under the State Department and he passed through the security probes which have recently grown common in that department. But there was no question of Ladejinsky's loyalty and he was fully cleared even by Scott MacLeod, the special security officer whose appointment was so comforting to those who feared Communist infiltration of the American government.

Late in 1954 Congress transferred agricultural attaches back to the Department of Agriculture and The Age Old Story The works of his hand are verily and judgment; all his commandments are sure. They stand fast for ever and ever, and are done in truth and uprightness.