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

THURSDAY, NOV. 18, 1954

Man in A Hurry

The whirlwind visits to Ottawa and Washington of M. Mendes-France, Premier of France, leave no very clear impressions other than that of a man in a desperate hurry. His failure, in the diplomatic as well as in the economic sphere, to emerge with a clear-cut plan indicating where he is going, has already led critics to denounce him for having formulated no discernible policies and his friends to view him with suspicion and reserve.

What so superficial an appraisal of M. Mendes-France overlooks is that he is the victim of circumstances which leave him no immediate alternative but to appear in the very role in which he is cast. When M. Mendes-France took office, his country was wobbling indecisively between the two grim alternatives of stagnation versus the return of the Communists to a position of power in a dangerous "front populaire." The French Premier's strength, up to now, has rested on the very fact that he has been able to avoid defining set policies which could become the subject of controversy, and which, almost certainly, would have led once again to a return to the political stagnation which has bedevilled France ever since the end of World War II.

Instead of policies, M. Mendes-France has given the people of his country what they wanted — an end to the hopeless struggle in Indo-China, a forthright attempt to end the troubles in French North Africa, and an alternative to the abortive European Defence Community. In so doing, however much one may doubt the intrinsic merits of his achievements, he has succeeded in stealing the Communists' best thunder and has done much to restore to the French people their sense of self-respect, so essential to their national well-being and progress.

As an economist turned diplomat, M. Mendes-France has already demonstrated both acumen and adroitness. It now remains to see whether in the domestic sphere, as he sets about the task of putting France's economic house in order, he can be as dramatic and persuasive as he has been on the diplomatic front.

St. Paul's

Grave anxieties about the condition of St. Paul's Cathedral in London have led to the launching of a campaign and to the setting up of a trust, of which the Lord Mayor and the Governor of the Bank of England are trustees. The cathedral is still disfigured by the havoc caused by bombs in the last world war, and among other causes for concern are the death-watch beetle which threatens the famed structure's timbers.

As the London Times points out, St. Paul's has many claims upon the reverence of the nation, and upon many beyond its boundaries.

There have been three cathedrals on Ludgate Hill, of which two perished by fire and this last was marvellously delivered in our own time. The beginnings go back to the day when Mellitus, only seven years from the landing of St. Augustine, became in 604 the first bishop of the East Saxons, and placed his see on the loftiest spot of old Londinium.

"There need be no contest for pre-eminence," says the Times, "between Westminster Abbey and St. Paul's; both are far too venerable. The Abbey was regular, the Cathedral secular. Where Westminster is the church of the monarchy, St. Paul's is the church of the people; but by long custom Kings and Queens come to St. Paul's to share the people's worship on occasions of great sorrow or great joy. Where Westminster frames the dedication of affairs of state, St. Paul's lifts the sign of the cross in the midst of the most crowded scenes of daily labour—and lifted it also with grandeur and consolation above the flame and clangour of war on a memorable night fourteen years ago. In a sense it is a peculiarly English shrine, but famous Scots are buried there, and in its crypt is the memorial to that gallant body, the Royal Irish Constabulary, because republican Dublin has no place to do them honour. It might be accounted a monument for the United Kingdom alone; yet the national heroes who are buried or commemorated there, from Nelson and Wellington to T. E. Lawrence, are of more than insular fame.

"So the appeal of St. Paul's Cathedral is to all who care for a Christian England and a Christian Empire, or even are concerned that a supreme work of art shall be preserved for posterity. Though in the days of bombardment the fabric was splendidly served by devoted watchers and was spar-

ed irreparable damage, parts of it were grievously wounded by the bombs and have still to be restored. The Chapter House was gutted, and must be refitted as working headquarters of one of the busiest caputular bodies of the Church of England. The choristers of St. Paul's have a tradition dear to all lovers of sacred music; and their recent tour in the United States, which forged a new link of harmony between two nations, is still fresh in memory. But the school where they are trained is marked for demolition, and a new building must be provided. To do all this, now that the value of the money in which the Cathedral endowments are measured has so catastrophically declined, is far beyond the resources of the Chapter; and it has become necessary to ask both for a sum of £400,000 for expenditure on immediate repairs and for an addition of £20,000 to the annual income of the Cathedral."

An Altruistic Act

There are occasions when an individual must be prepared to forego a lucrative appointment for the good of the political party of which he is a member. One such occasion came to light recently in the case of Senator Frederick G. Payne, Republican from Maine. Mr. Payne, who served as Governor of his State prior to his election to the Senate, was an accountant by profession before he entered politics. Last Spring the Controller-General of the United States retired from his post; and, since Senator Payne happened to be the only experienced accountant in Congress, and the post usually goes to a member of one House or the other, it was only natural that the President should consider him for the appointment. Apparently, it is not a particularly arduous office; but it carries an annual salary of \$17,500 and a 15-year tenure. Mr. Payne, being a good Republican and, therefore, responsive to the wishes of his chief, and understanding well the uncertainties of political life, even in Maine, probably would have accepted the President's offer, had it been forthcoming; although he did say that he would just as soon remain in the Senate to help carry out the President's program.

At that time, however, the Republicans were so short-handed in the Upper Chamber that it was decided to let the post remain vacant until after the November elections. As it turned out, of course, the Republican position in the Senate is not as good now as it was in the Spring. Consequently, by mutual agreement, the accountant-Senator will remain where he is and see the Controller's job go to somebody outside the Upper House. Perhaps it was a disappointment to Mr. Payne; if so, it certainly is nothing to his discredit. But, after all, the team's welfare must come before that of the individual player. The Senator has done his duty; doubtless, at some more opportune time, his altruistic act will be remembered and will receive its due reward.

EDITORIAL NOTES

A live coelecanth, considered an important link in the evolution of mammals, was captured in the Cororo archipelago, off Madagascar, according to a French news agency. Thought to be long extinct, a number of these creatures have been reported recently but this is the first to be taken alive.

Amelita Galli-Curci, Italo-American coloratura soprano, was born at Milan this date 1889. She studied music there but was self-taught as a singer. She made her U. S. A. debut in Chicago as Gilda in Rigoletto in 1916 and gave many performances at the Metropolitan Opera House in New York. She made a wide reputation through the medium of recordings.

Sponsorship of next month's Red Cross blood donor clinic in the city by the Charlottetown Branch of the Legion should go far towards making a success of the Island clinics which require no less than 1200 donors at this time. Legionnaires themselves are not backward in serving their fellows and can call upon the public with good grace.

Finance Minister Walter Harris has expressed amazement that Canadians allow the Federal and other Governments to take away from them nearly one-third of their incomes. Put that way it really is amazing, but taxation experts have been studying for years means of painlessly separating the taxpayer from his money.

Premium rates for lobster trap insurance will be slightly increased and indemnities slightly reduced in Bay of Fundy and southwest Nova Scotia areas, reports the bulletin of the Fisheries Council of Canada. Rates in other areas will also be examined because the Government paid out \$46,110 in claims while taking in only \$11,722 in premiums in the Maritime area. The areas of heavy losses, however, are those with a long season rather than the short season typical of this Province.



Ready Anytime For The Cure

44 Years Before Edison

(Gerald Kloss in The Milwaukee Journal)

While North America this Fall honors the memory of Thomas Edison for the invention of the electric light 75 years ago, a nod of appreciation might also be thrown in the direction of Dundee, Scotland. There occurred the first public demonstration of an electric light — 44 years before Edison produced his first practical model.

"The light in beauty surpasses all others," ran the description in the Dundee Advertiser of July 31, 1835. "It has no smell, emits no smoke, is incapable of explosion, and, not requiring air for combustion, can be kept in sealed glass jars."

The inventor was an unsung genius, James Bowman Lindsay, who not only preceded Edison on the electric light but also patented a process of wireless telegraphy four decades before Marconi started his experiments. Lindsay's failure to achieve a reputation — or a fortune — was due to his versatility. Before seeing one project through, he usually was embarked on several others in different fields.

As it turned out, Lindsay's fame barely reached the outskirts of Dundee, where he was a school teacher most of his life. A modest, unassuming bachelor, he did his work in three small rooms, cluttered with books and scientific apparatus.

His first big project was not in the field of science. In 1828 — at the age of 29 — he started compiling a dictionary of words in 107 languages and dialects. This was to include such tongues as Manx, Tibetan, Coptic, Tonga, Kurdish, Sulu, Rarotongan and Madagascar, as well as the better known languages of the world, living or dead.

For more than 25 years, he spent all his spare time doing research and writing the huge tome, to which he gave an appropriately grand title, the "Pentecostaglossal dictionary." He was known to have walked 50 miles to the Advocates' library in Edinburgh to get the sound and meaning of a single Chinese character.

In 1846, Lindsay produced a "Pentecostaglossal Paternoster," giving the Lord's Prayer in 50 languages. The unfinished manuscript of his dictionary was given to the Dundee public library after his death.

Lindsay's experiments in electricity began in 1832. After three years he produced his first workable model of an electric light using a primitive battery for power. In a letter to the Dundee Advertiser in the Fall of 1835 he wrote: "I am writing this letter by means of the light at six or eight inches distant, and at the present moment can read a book at the distance of one and one-half feet. From the same apparatus, I can get two or three lights, each of which is fit for reading with."

In the same letter, he made some predictions on the use of electric lights: "On its introduction to spinning mills, conflagrations there will be unheard of. Its beauty will recommend it to the fashionable. Being capable of surpassing all lights in splendor, it will be used in lighthouses and for telegraphs. The present generation may yet have it burning in their houses and enlightening their streets..."

No technical description of Lindsay's light has been found, so it cannot be compared to Edison's first incandescent lamp. But his wireless telegraphy system was given wider notice. Instead of sending signals through the air, Lindsay used bodies of water for a medium. In 1833 he sent a current across a small pond. The Dundee Advertiser, ever willing to boost the home town inventor, remarked: "The experiment removes all doubt of the practicability of Mr. Lindsay's invention; and there is every reason to think that it will soon connect continent with continent."

He also invented electric welding (1845), published a book on astronomy (1858) and a pamphlet on baptism (1861). He died in 1862. This timid, humble school teacher's only public recognition was an annual pension of £100, which was granted by the government, at the behest of his friends, in 1858, "in recognition of his great learning and extraordinary attainments."

A granite monument was erected in his memory at Dundee in 1901. The inscription closes: "An accomplished scientist; a profound student; an earnest Christian."

The Poet's Corner FROM "THE COMFORTERS"

Until thy feet have trod the Road Advise not wayside folk, Nor till thy back has borne the Load Break it upon the broke. Chase not with undesired largesse Of sympathy the heart Which, knowing her own bitterness, Presumes to dwell apart. Employ not that glad hand to raise The God-forgotten head To Heaven and all the neighbours' gaze — Cover thy mouth instead. The quivering chin, the bitten lip The cold and sweating brow. Later may yearn for fellowship — Not now, you ass, not now! Time, not thy ne'er so timely Life, not thy views thereon, Shall furnish or deny to each His consolation. —Rudyard Kipling

NOTES BY THE WAY

Superior is the only one of the Great Lakes whose name has no Indian association. French explorers called it "le lac superieur," the upper lake. Huron took its name from the Huron tribes; Michigan came from the Algonquin word meaning "wide waste." Erie may have been Indian for "long-tailed cat." Ontario is from the Iroquois, meaning "beautiful water."

Legislation to make all bumpers standard height is being urged by the Ontario Insurance Agents Association. It is a good idea and should be made to include the putting of rear bumpers on trucks which have platforms that are particularly dangerous when a passenger car strikes them from the rear. —Port Arthur News-Chronicle.

Latest developments on the crime front present some interesting items. Scotland Yard reports the growing menace of the "television burglar" who works freely in the other parts of the house while the family is glued to the TV receiver in the living room. The better "television burglar" has to be something of a critic. He must be able to rate the programs being offered with a competent eye. Only a really good show offers him the best opportunity to ransack the rest of the house. —Amherst News.

In 1951, diagnostic English tests of University of Toronto students in all four years showed 65 per cent of the students failing in these tests. The tests were an experiment, undertaken to determine the justice or otherwise of criticisms that students were lacking in command of their own language. Since then

the tests have been continued with the freshmen classes of University College only. In 1952, there were 43 per cent failures, shaded to 42.8 per cent in 1953. This year, only 23.4 per cent of the freshmen failed. Out of 491 students, only 29 received A's, 87 B's, 191 C's and 69 D's with 115 failures. —Chat-Ham Daily News.

"Ask most people that, and you invite the scornful answer, 'Not me!' And so a popular idea of saints and saintliness is based largely on wishy-washy and anemic pictures and fanciful stained glass windows in which unreality could hardly go further, one can't quite blame the man in the street for rejecting an invitation to become a saint. Saints just don't seem to "click" with real life. Now it so happens that November is peculiarly a month of saints. It opens with All Saints' Day and ends with St. Andrew's Day. It includes the festival of the great soldier-saint, Martin of Tours, which by a happy coincidence is also Remembrance Day. This business of saints surely merits a little thought at this time of year. —Sarnia Observer.

The Age Old Story

I will greatly rejoice in the Lord, my soul shall be joyful in my God, for he hath clothed me with the garments of salvation, he hath covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decketh himself with ornaments, and as a bride adorneth herself with her jewels.

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The Passing Scene

By Observer ANOTHER DISTURBING REPORT

This one comes from the United States Information Agency. This includes the Voice of America which has the job of broadcasting American and free world information to countries which are "on the fence" between Communism and Western Democracy and even to countries behind the Iron and Bamboo Curtains. Upwards of 10,000 persons are employed by the Agency. About 2500 of these are at work in the continental United States; the others are engaged abroad, many of them being citizens of the countries in which they work.

Most of the officials are supposed to be specialists in fields like public affairs, libraries, radio, motion pictures, and the press; these are divided into sub-divisions which include every possible source of information. Because of the important place the United States occupies these days in free world affairs it is of tremendous concern to us all that the U. S. I. A. and its many subsidiaries should function well. The information distributed must be carefully prepared and well presented if it is to have any counteracting influence on Communist propaganda which never ceases; and that, of course, is its purpose.

Now comes word from the director of the U.S.I.A. that the Agency is not working well, because of increasing difficulty in finding and retaining properly qualified personnel. At the present time, he says, there are many vacancies in important posts. Resignations are being handed in all the time. Other officials are just holding on until something more to their liking turns up. In short, the morale of the organization is not as strong as efficiency and thoroughness demand.

Things were so gloomy a few weeks ago that the director closed the Washington office for one day and sent all the employees out looking for applicants. The result of this innovation has not yet been determined; it seems unlikely, however, that the ranks could be refilled satisfactorily in that way.

As in the case of other organizations, some of the vacancies are due to "natural causes." But the chief trouble, undoubtedly, can be traced to the long series of Congressional investigations to which the Agency and its subsidiaries have been subjected. The Voice of America particularly has been a favorite target for Senator McCarthy's ire; he once called it a "nest of Communists and fellow-travellers."

Actually, relatively few fellow-travellers were unearthed in any of the inquiries, and no Communists. Nevertheless, the publicity, with its emphasis on rumours and half-truths, could not fail to discourage a great number of hard-working, devoted, loyal officials who, understandably, did not relish the prospect of having their loyalty questioned simply because they might have been, at one time or another, in an office or a department where there had been some slight suspicion of subversive activity, although they themselves were, in no way involved in it.

Guilt by remote association, which seems to have become an almost normal assumption in some official investigations, is something which any self-respecting person will do almost anything to avoid, even if it means giving up a job for which he has been trained, and which he is able to do well.

The situation is complicated by the fact that the U.S.I.A. is just the sort of organization that the Communists would dearly love to control; it can be assumed that they are doing everything they can think of to get their agents established in strategic posts, especially in the libraries and cultural departments of various kinds. The harm that a fanatical Communist sympathizer could do, say in a library in Japan or Italy, where Communist machinery already is well organized, can be easily imagined. This means, of course, that the U. S. I. A. and similar organizations must constantly be under official scrutiny. Periodical and thorough investigations, therefore are inevitable.

Moreover, it must be expected that in examining such far-flung facilities there will be occasions when an unjust inference with respect to some perfectly loyal and efficient official will slip in uncorrected. Usually, this can be corrected before any great harm has been done to anybody except the Agency itself. Blanket accusations are another matter, and there have been far too many of them. The description of the Voice of America as a "nest of Communists" when searching inquiry indicated nothing of the sort, was as foolish as it was unjust.

Old Charlottetown and P. E. I. FOX HUNTING

"On Friday last, His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor and his fox hounds, which have been recruited from the Duke of Grafton's kennel, met at Braddock's gate, and after drawing two small covers blank, formed at Wright's Mill Creek. The condition and appearance of the hounds promised good sport to the field of well-mounted sportsmen who were present. After a few turns in the cover, Reynard broke away for Carry's, when he was viewed and headed. He ran up the creek again to the Mill, when he was again viewed, and finding he could not stop, broke over the clear for Braddock's large wood, where being hard pressed, he ran to ground, and was killed in a field near the cover, after a run of forty minutes. This being the first successful run this season, there is every reason to expect, as soon as the corn is down, that there will be a good sport, which we hope His Excellency will enjoy a share of before his departure."

Royal Gazette, Sept. 7, 1841. (In a preceding issue the Gazette published an announcement from Downing Street, Aug. 24th, of Lieutenant Governor Sir Charles Fitzroy's appointment as Governor and Commander-in-Chief of the British West Indies.)

MESSY AFFAIR
 RAINHAM, England (CP) — As firemen fought a blaze in a baker's loft in this Essex community, water from the hoses mixed with flour and soon all were covered in dough.

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