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

FRIDAY, MAY 6, 1955

Obstacles To Rearming

How near is West German rearmament which, in the opinion of Western leaders, is necessary to the defence of Western Europe in the event of Soviet aggression? The answer, if one may judge by appearances, is that it is still a long way off.

This has been more or less evident all along; but it has been given added emphasis in recent weeks by Soviet Russia's apparently gentle way of coming to terms with Austria and by the inference of statements by Soviet spokesmen that Germany could be re-united just as easily as the Soviet-Austrian accord was reached if only the West Germans would forget about rearmament and membership in Nato and be content to settle down as peaceful neutralists between the Eastern and Western camps of an uneasy Europe.

Besides all this, and assuming that rearmament does, in fact, get under way in the near future—which is doubtful—experts say that it would be two years at the earliest before West German troops could count for anything in Western defence.

Soviet Weaknesses

There are two main schools of thought in the West on the subject of the strength of the Soviet machine. One school believes that it is a solid, compact, Communist-controlled system which nothing, short of all-out war against it, is capable of weakening to any appreciable extent.

It may be that the truth of the matter lies somewhere between these two opposing views. The only people who really are in a position to offer reasonably dependable testimony in the case are those who have spent considerable time in the Soviet Union and who have had opportunity to size up the situation for themselves.

In a book entitled "Political Warfare" and now being published by the John Day Company, John Scott, who spent several

years behind the curtain as a roving journalist—and by all accounts a good one—says that there are three main weaknesses in the machine which he feels should be given more consideration—and encouragement where possible—by Western governments than has been the case heretofore.

EDITORIAL NOTES

According to the International Union for the Protection of Nature, there has been a sudden decrease in the number of storks throughout Europe in recent years.

In agreeing to a settlement before, and not after, the date set for a strike, Britain's Locomotive Engineers and Firemen have established a fine precedent for union negotiators.

Generalissimo Chiang Kai Shek says that the situation in the Formosa Straits is still tense. How can it be otherwise so long as he himself keeps harping on "liberating" the mainland, and Chou En-lai on "liberating" Formosa—neither of which projects can be attempted, let alone carried out, without plunging the entire Pacific area in useless conflict?

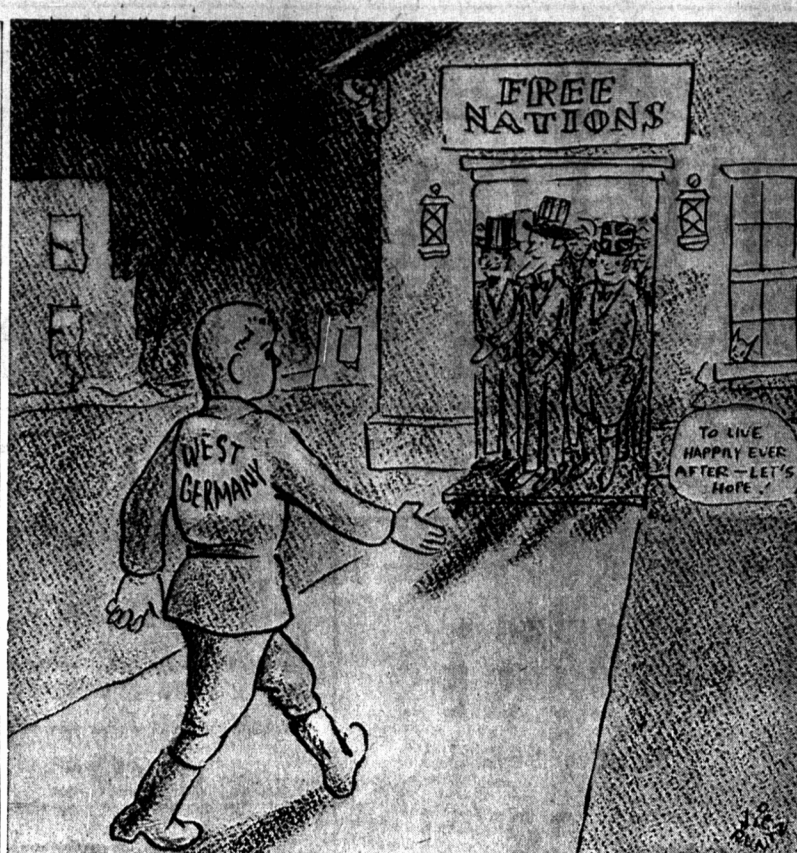
Not only did Nikita Khrushchev, boss of Soviet Communism, "steal the show" at Moscow's May Day celebration; according to news reports, the Premier was not there at all.

In turning down the idea of a shrine in memory of the late Dr. Einstein, the executor of his estate, Dr. Otto Nathan, probably reflected the wishes of the great scientist who, in life, spurned the way of ostentation and vain-glory.

A language that is whistled, not spoken, flourishes in the Canary Islands, says the National Geographic Society. On hilly Gomera, people must communicate across long distances, and whistling carries better than shouting.

An exchange notes that while North America is discussing guaranteed annual wages and extensions of unemployment insurance, New Zealand, on the other side of the world, has quite the opposite problem. New Zealand is plagued with over-employment or, to put it in commoner terms, with a shortage of labor.

The first continent-wide attempt to get rid of malaria has been launched under the sponsorship of the World Health Organisation. All governments of the Americas will co-operate in the project. Malaria eradication can no longer be considered merely a local or national problem, but must be undertaken on a continental scale to prevent re-infection across boundaries.



Return Of A Prodigal

Civil Defense Planning

Second of a Series of four articles By Dave McIntosh, Canadian Press, Ottawa

Civil defence planners here are convinced that evacuation of Canadian cities is entirely feasible in event of hydrogen-bomb attack. "What else can you do?" one official said bluntly. "Leave everybody in the city to be killed by blast, heat or radiation."

Privately, civil defence people say the latest disclosures about the destructiveness of the H-bomb, particularly the widespread radioactive fall-out, are penetrating the apathy about civil defence in many government circles.

They feel that if this apathy is broken down at the top levels of government, evacuation plans for Canadian cities will materialize, slowly but steadily. Already, a four-man civil defence team is getting together with civic officials to make a start on evacuation plans for each major city.

When planning was based on the effects of the atomic bomb, it was believed that parts of a city and some of its people could be saved if medical services, fire departments and the like were rushed in from outside.

The H-bomb has changed all this. Even a medium-sized 10-megaton bomb, the equivalent of 10,000,000 tons of TNT, would destroy or damage beyond repair all buildings in any Canadian city and kill all persons left in the city.

At the same time, civil defence can't abandon its plans for the eventuality of an atomic bomb attack. There is always the possibility the enemy might use an A-bomb instead of an H-bomb.

The radar warning line now being built in Canada's Arctic will give Canadian cities probably three and possibly four hours' notice of air attack.

Officials contend this is enough time to evacuate any Canadian city—provided plans are laid well in advance and each person knows where to go. "I am convinced—absolutely convinced—that it can be done, even if only because the consequences of not doing it are so awful," one authority said.

The Age Old Story

For great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised: he also is to be feared above all gods. . . . Glory and honour are in his presence; strength and gladness are in his place.

The Red Ensign

(Ottawa Journal)

As the Prime Minister said in a statement in the Commons last month Canada possesses in the Red Ensign a "distinctive Canadian flag" which takes its status from an order-in-council dated September 5, 1945.

That being the precise legal situation it would seem to be a matter of indifference whether the Red Ensign is called our "official" flag. It is the distinctive Canadian flag to be flown on official and ceremonial occasions, and, as Mr. St. Laurent said, that is the law so long as the order-in-council, remains in force.

It is mistaken zeal, and can be nothing but a source of embarrassment to the cause of national unity if it is supposed to foster.

No sensible person should say that our flag is fixed and unalterable for all time; but equally no sensible person would seek a change when it is clear that the change would encounter bitter resentment from a large part of our population.

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One In 5,000

R. Tucker Abbott, in Natural History Magazine When you sit down to a plate of oysters on the half-shell or a bowl of oyster stew your chances of discovering a pearl are about one in 5,000 and when we consider how many thousands of bushels of these bivalves are eaten each day it is not surprising to learn that Americans annually find several hundred good sized pearls at seafood restaurants.

Unfortunately these pearls are of no commercial value, except perhaps to a few people who especially collect odd type pearls. Almost every kind of clam, oyster, and mussel, and many species of snails, whelks and conch shells are capable of producing pearls, but only the true pearl oyster of the tropical seas can make the familiar gem pearls of jeweler's quality.

Pearls, usually of lesser value, are found in certain species of river mussels or unions, the most notable example being one from New Jersey, which was sold 100 years ago to Queen Eugenie of France for \$25,000. The common blue mussel of our northern coasts produces a small, highly iridescent pearl, while the giant tridacna clam of the Indo-Pacific reefs has been known to make whitish porcelaneous pearls larger than golf balls.

Medically Speaking

RELIEF FOR HEMORRHOIDS

Piles or hemorrhoids, as anyone who has had them knows, can be pretty painful. Sometimes surgery is necessary, but there are also things you can do yourself to help relieve the symptoms.

First, let's understand just what piles or hemorrhoids are. Often the veins around the lower opening of the bowel become dilated, enlarged, or even inflamed. These enlarged veins are piles or hemorrhoids.

Unless a blood clot forms in the veins you probably won't have any symptoms. If you do have a blood clot, you will suffer pain, particularly when you have a bowel movement. Bleeding may also occur.

Sometimes the enlarged veins are located further up in your bowel. These are called internal hemorrhoids, and can be discovered by a physician upon examination with a proctoscope.

The symptoms are about the same as with external hemorrhoids, except that you may also have a backache. Itching around the lower opening of the bowel is another symptom.

Farm applications will probably help relieve these symptoms. The best method is to keep your bowel movement soft. Mineral oil will help.

Sometimes your doctor might have to open a vein and remove the blood clot. He can also suggest various ointments and preparations containing pain-relieving drugs. You will find these very helpful.

In treating internal hemorrhoids, he may inject scar-forming solutions. If none of these measures relieve your hemorrhoids, you'll probably have to undergo surgery.

QUESTION AND ANSWER

L. C. S.: I wear glasses, and in the corner of my eyes at the nose I have dark spots. What causes this?

Answer: The dark spots in the corner of your eye might be due to a variety of causes. They might come from irritation from the glasses, from some skin infection or possibly from some circulatory disturbance. An examination is needed to determine the cause.

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The Poet's Corner

MIDDLE AGE

I pause upon this summit to look back Upon a lengthening chain of yesterdays: To rue some bold achievement that I lack, Or some intrepid hope that now decays. The vibrant breath of youth stirs me no more As I, with grim detachment, scan the past: For blood and pulse are tamer than before; Frustration and resentment pale at last. Though pride rebel, yet I will not deny The evil I have done, nor vaunt the good: The spirit must be tutored to decay. The threat of time, not earlier understood. Attaining now to this more tranquil stage, I seek the wisdom youth could not presage. -Nathaniel Thorton in the New York Times.

PUBLIC FORUM

This column is open to the discussion by correspondents of questions of interest. The Guardian does not necessarily endorse the opinions.

"BEHOLD THY MOTHER"

Sir,—Sunday we celebrate Mother's Day as the beginning of Family Week. The honor of the origin belongs to Mrs. Anna Jarvis in Philadelphia. Her mother died in 1906. On Sunday May 9, 1907 she invited a friend and told her to remember with her the anniversary of the death of her mother. She had the desire to dedicate a day to all mothers. Before the next year she had interested many individuals and organizations to observe the second Sunday. She became the missionary of the idea, and countries have adopted it. Dedication to the best mother in the world, your mother. Very often we do not always appreciate our mother's love and blessing that follow us wherever we go. We have become lacking in the tender consideration that once prevailed. This may be due to our busy and fast pace. Modern life makes for thoughtless neglect of home ties and of loving consideration. We have often forgotten our loving and unselfish mother. "A mother's love — how sweet the name. What is a mother's love? A noble, pure and tender flame, Enkindled from above. To bless a heart of earthly mold; The warmest love that can grow cold; This is a mother's love." Many great men through the years have accredited their success to their mother's surpassing tenderness. Lincoln said: "All that I am or hope to be, I owe to my angel mother." John Quincy Adams said: "All that I am, my mother made me." The destiny of any nation is decided to a great extent in the way in which the young are guided and educated. Napoleon said: "The future of the child is always determined by the Mother. Let France have good mothers and she will have good sons for us. Mothers contribute immeasurably to both family life and society. James Russell Lowell has aptly put it: "Many make the household, but only one the home." As we think of what our mother has done for us, we think of the love and kindness that have followed us. They are lights to us when dark clouds seem to overtake us. We think of the times we have been getting ready to leave home. Mother would express her blessing, wishing us to continue in the way of the Lord, and very often making sure that a Bible was packed in our suitcase referring us to the words. "In all