

Communist Party Membership

More than 900 million persons are now under the Communist yoke; yet, according to a Moscow survey as quoted by Reuters News Agency, less than 30 million of these hold membership in the Communist Party.

The survey officials interpret this to mean that Russian leaders are interested more in quality of membership than in quantity; each Party member is regarded as a leader in his community and is expected to educate the masses in the "privileges" they enjoy under this system of minority rule.

Other statistics brought out by the survey indicate that there is a Communist organization of some sort in every country in the world. Among the free nations Italy comes first with an official membership of more than 2 million; France is second with about 800 thousand.

It would be idle to speculate on the possible views of the vast army of "outsiders" who make up the bulk of the population in Communist controlled countries. But, even allowing for many millions who may be sympathetic with the party's aims and policies, without actually being members, there must be multitudes of embittered citizens, some of whom have been rejected by Party leaders, who are just putting up with conditions because they are powerless, for the time being, to do anything about them.

What Churchill Said

In view of their importance, it is well worth studying Prime Minister Churchill's own words in dealing with the question of Red China's admission to the United Nations, as reported verbatim in the British House of Commons on Monday. This is what he said:

"My Right Honorable friend the Foreign Secretary and I were astonished on our homeward voyage to read the press extracts and other reports which were sent us of the storm suddenly raised in the United States by Senator Knowland about the possibility of Communist China being admitted to UN against American wishes, and still more that these reports seem to be in some way or other linked with our visit as if we had come over for such a purpose. In fact, although it was mentioned, it played no noticeable part in our discussions, and was not an immediate issue. It cannot in any way be raised for some time and if it should be raised, which is by no means certain, we shall undoubtedly have a different situation to face than any which now exists.

The United Kingdom policy on the subject has been unchanged since 1951 when the Right Honorable gentleman for South Lewisham, (Herbert Morrison), then Foreign Secretary, stated that His Majesty's Government believed that the Central People's Government should represent China in the United Nations but that in view of that government's persistence in behavior inconsistent with the purposes and principles of the charter, it appeared to His Majesty's government that consideration of the question should be postponed. "That was the policy of the late government and it has been the policy of the present government, reaffirmed in July last by the Chancellor of the Exchequer. Since then the Geneva conference has discussed but failed to reach agreement on the reunification of Korea and although the

armistice remains in force the arrangements for its supervision have proved far from satisfactory. Although no actual fighting is taking place, the armies still remain in the presence of each other.

"Moreover, as we can all see, the problem of Indo-China has assumed far more serious proportions. Indeed, as I have indicated, a military climax may well be approaching. No agreement has yet been reached at Geneva either about Indo-China or Korea. If such agreements were reached in either or both these theatres, the arrangements would still depend on good faith and co-operation, for which time would certainly be required. In these circumstances although Her Majesty's government still believe that the Central People's Government should represent China in the United Nations they certainly do not consider that this is the moment for the matter to be reconsidered."

The Anointed?

Ottawa correspondents are saying that with his appointment as Finance Minister Mr. Walter Harris has been moved into the anteroom of his party's leadership, that Mr. St. Laurent has said to him "Thou art the man."

But, says the Ottawa Journal, it hasn't always been that the finance department was the last rung but one in ascent to party leadership. Sir George Foster was minister of finance in the ministries of Abbott, Thompson, Bowell and Tupper; he never became his party's leader. Mr. Fielding was Liberal finance minister for 15 years; Mr. King, little known or tried at the time, defeated him for the succession to Laurier.

The Journal recalls that Sir Thomas White was finance minister under Borden; although he was Borden's choice to succeed him as prime minister it was Meighen, supported by the party caucus, who got the post. Mr. Robb was finance minister under Mr. King; no one ever thought of him as Mr. King's successor. Mr. Rhodes was finance minister under Bennett; although a man of great ability his post at finance never marked him as Bennett's successor.

So Mr. Harris' promotion may mean little more than that Mr. St. Laurent thought of him as the best man he could find for the finance job where talent was not too plentiful. And while it could be that Mr. Harris will turn out to be a first-rate man in finance, and thereby increase his prospects for Mr. St. Laurent's post when Mr. St. Laurent relinquishes it, that is the most that can be said for the time-being.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Race discrimination is being combatted in East and Central Africa by a "Zebra Club." According to the World Veteran the zebra badge of the club signifies that if you shoot a zebra the damage is done whether you hit a black stripe or a white stripe.

Indians were living in the eastern United States in 8,000 B. C. according to carbon 14 tests of charcoal from an ancient camp site near Modoc, Illinois. The dating made possible by the "half-life" of radioactive carbon has required us to considerably revise our concepts of the period during which this continent was inhabited.

As a depressing sidelight on the St. Lawrence Seaway project comes word that completion of the undertaking would give a great impetus to, among other things, the export of juke boxes by the United States. The city of Buffalo, it appears, is a great juke box manufacturing centre and the producers believe that overseas shipment of these musical torture-chambers will be facilitated by the Seaway.

Jean Baptiste Camille Corot, French landscape painter, was born this date 1796. After seven years' apprenticeship in a Paris drapery business he resolved to become a painter. He studied in Paris, Italy, England and Switzerland. Recognition came slowly, at least from official sources, but he was soon being offered large sums, which he did not always accept, for his paintings. He had remarkable technical ability and paid close attention to detail. In later life he allowed himself more freedom and interpreted nature in her more tender elusive moods.

In his report on Mao's China, the outcome of a visit to China in 1952, Mr. Frank Moraes, editor of The Times of India, says he saw several of the new China's plays and films. The plays he found not unentertaining, though strictly "geared to the dogmas of the regime, especially when they contained battle scenes with the marvellous acrobatics of the actors which the Chinese love. But the films were long and dragging, the propaganda effects crude. Most noticeable, too, they revealed strong affinities with Hollywood, in spite of the Communist producers' insistence that they are free of all American influence.



In Summertime They're Everywhere

PUBLIC FORUM

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

THEN, AND NOW

Sir,—Reading "Old Charlottetown" in a recent issue of The Guardian brought visions of English Gold Sovereigns, Spanish Dubloons and pieces-of-eight clinking into the old fashioned tills at the Custom House. "Duties on articles imported here, will henceforth be received in British money of Spanish dollars" the article said, as quoted from the P. E. Island Register of 1829.

Time marches on and amazing changes are recorded. Today the English pound sterling, once the standard of world currency at \$4.88 2-3 (Canadian dollars) has dwindled to \$2.72 3-4, while a chicken brooder-house could be lined with Spanish dollars at less cost than a good grade of tar paper. Even the much sought-after American silver dollar made a bow of 3 1-2 per cent this week to Canadian folding money.

Yes, it's good to be a Canadian—and an Islander.

I am, Sir, etc. JOHNNY CANUCK

The Poet's Corner

THE INTERPRETER

In the very early morning when the light was low She got all together and she went like snow, Like snow in the springtime on a sunny hill, And we were only frightened and can't think still.

We can't think quite that the katydids and frogs And the little crying chickens and the little grunting hogs, And the other crying things that she spoke for to us, Have nothing more to tell her since it happened thus.

She never is around for any one to touch, But of ecstasy and longing she knew too much . . . And always when any one has time to call his own She will come and be beside him as quiet as a stone.

—Orrick Johns.

Old Charlottetown and P. E. I.

DAILY TELEGRAMS

"Cyrus W. Field, of New York, arrived at Charlottetown from St. John N. B., on Thursday night last, and left for Halifax Saturday morning. We understand that Mr. Field met a deputation at the Reading Room Friday night, with the view of securing daily telegrams of the latest European and American news. The result of the interview was that Mr. Field proposed to furnish daily telegrams at the rate of one dollar per day. This proposition being far more favorable than any hitherto offered, will likely be accepted, especially as it includes daily European news direct from New York, as well as the arrival and departure of vessels to and from Europe and New York, connected with P. E. Island Trade." The Vindicator, July 20, 1864.

The Age Old Story

And there shall in no wise enter into it anything that defileth, neither whatsoever worketh abomination, or maketh a lie: but they which are written in the Lamb's book of life.

TOO AMBITIOUS

BECKENHAM, England, (CP)—A civil defence exercise in this Kent community, planned to include 3,000 mock casualties, had to be modified in case real injuries resulted.

Hydrogen Bomb Challenge

Rt. Hon. C. R. Atlee, O.M., in European Service.

In my view, we face today a new situation in the history of the world. The broad fact is that scientists, working under the direction of governments, have evolved a weapon which is capable of destroying the great cities of the world, or if not of destroying them, at least putting them out of action. It has been stated that the bomb that was discharged in the Pacific would put out of action the metropolitan area of New York City; that is a very great extent. It could devastate Moscow, Paris, Sydney, or any other of the great cities of the world. Besides this, it is clear that the area of danger in the explosion of these bombs is very great. In fact it would appear that whole regions can be made unsafe for human beings, animals, and perhaps also for vegetation.

Our modern civilization expresses itself particularly in the great cities—the cities of 1,000,000, or 2,000,000, 3,000,000 or more inhabitants. They are targets of immense vulnerability. We have great industrial areas and they are today exposed to destruction by a single blow. We have reached a culminating point in the development of warfare. At one time, war was waged between armed forces, and the suffering of the civilian population was generally incidental. Sometimes there were deliberate ravages and blockades, but broadly speaking the attack was directed by one lot of armed forces against another. We have travelled a long way since then.

Attack on the civilian population has now become primary. Consider the changes in our lifetime. I can remember the South African War. We can trace the changes up through other wars, first the Great War and then the second Great War. All the time the restrictions on warfare have been steadily evaded. About forty years ago, the end of action that was taken in the last war was, however, been thought absolutely abhorrent to civilized people, yet it is less than forty years since the zeppelins were over London. See what a long way we have travelled since then.

Let us consider the effect of this invention. Does it make war more, or less, likely? The question merits close examination. It is contended that the existence of this weapon will itself prevent war. It is said that the possession of the hydrogen bomb in the hands of the United States was a deterrent preventing the U.S.S.R. with its great superiority in numbers and conventional weapons, from sweeping right over Europe in a major act of aggression. It may be so. But as soon as the U.S.S.R. got a their atom bomb the force of that deterrent was lessened. There was the certainty of retaliation, and what is more, the possibility of anticipation. The whole position has changed.

There are those who contend that the possession of the hydrogen bomb can be an instrument for preserving peace. It is suggested that the threat of instant retaliation by the use of this weapon can be employed to prevent a resort to armed action anywhere. I believe that this is a profound delusion. The more absolute the sanction the greater the reluctance to use it. Suppose an act of aggression took place now in some part of the world, say on the Burmese border, by China. Can one imagine the immediate use of the hydrogen bomb against the capital city of another country? It would amount to a bluff. The danger of a bluff is that it may be called. Therefore, although we may have this sanction, I do not think that it will by itself prevent war. Indeed, there is a danger that people may chance making war in the belief that the weapon will not be used. The threat of its use is very dangerous because it may provoke anticipation.

Another suggestion is that hydrogen and atomic warfare is so devastating that neither side will ever resort to it. I should like to believe it. The fact is that once there is war, absolute war, in the modern age, and if the existence of a nation is at stake, any weapon will be used in the last resort. We have seen it. I have said that we have been compelled to use weapons that we could not have thought of using forty years ago. Who can doubt, after reading "Hitler's Last Days," that even at the very end of that war, if Hitler had had an atom bomb, he would have used it, even if there had been the possibility of retaliation? He was completely reckless and anarchistic. He would rather have seen absolute destruction if he had failed to get his end.

NOTES BY THE WAY

Everybody believes in punishing a lawbreaker unless, of course he is a friend or relative. —Brandon Sun. A diplomat takes a long drink of water when he feels inclined to hum and haw. —St. Catharines Standard. A contemporary has a tough problem. It is trying to find out which costs more—to keep a car running or to keep it parked. —Kitcheners - Waterloo Record.

The reason why a lawn-mower sounds so annoying early in the morning is because it reminds us that our own lawn needs cutting. —Stratford Beacon-Herald. Japanese astronomers have noted the disappearance of a "lake" on Mars. The Japs are sensitive to vanishing acts. Twice in the past decade they looked at the map and familiar cities were missing. —Windsor Daily Star.

One charge against American scientist Oppenheimer is that he wasn't enthusiastic about the hydrogen bomb. But then the prospects didn't exactly have many of us tossing our hats in the air. —Hamilton Spectator. It would be interesting to know how many persons, who profess to abominate capital punishment, would react if a loved wife or child was a victim of these murderers? There have been many cases of brutal rape murders recently in which old women and children have died horribly. What, except death, should be the portion of these murderers? How would we feel if the only punishment for the multiple sadistic murder of our wife and family were punishable only with life imprisonment? Usually about 15 years.

The French scientist who survived a diet of raw fish and seawater for 65 days while drifting across the Atlantic on a rubber raft is scheduled to enter a hospital here. Dr. Alain Bombard, who subjected himself to the worst the ocean had to offer to prove that shipwrecked persons could live indefinitely on a raft without food or fresh water, said today he has liver and stomach ailments. He complained that he can't eat or drink normally and has a host of minor maladies as a result of his adventure. Besides fish, Bombard ate sea birds, barnacles, plankton, rain and dew after leaving Monaco on May 25, 1953. His voyage ended in the British West Indies. —North American Newspaper Alliance.

Somehow, our faith in the survival of humanity gets a lift each time we learn that some human fallibility or foible has penetrated the Iron Curtain and is sullying the austere air of the Workers' Paradise. This time it's used cars. From a blast in the Leningrad Prava, it appears that the comrades pride for automobiles just as desperately as Westerners do and, the supply being limited, have got themselves all mixed up in a lively black market. —Hamilton Spectator. —Things boys don't do now: Go down to the firehall at seven o'clock in the evening to watch the horses run to their places in a practice drill; Pick up pieces of carbon pencils discarded by the man who came along to fix the carbon arc lamps on the street. Visit the farm and ride bare-back on the old mare; Ride on the steps that ran the length of the old Summer street cars; Beg a large biscuit from the family grocery and fashion it into a home-made toboggan; Get round, flat, hard peppermints from Grandpa. —Fort William Times-Journal.

As we approach the day of industrial atomic energy, a doubled need for all kinds of power, an increasing population, and enlarged demands for every kind of construction and expansion, we might give some thought to man himself. As in the condition of many an active man homo sapiens must be energized. As the engineer builds edifices so the biochemist, the dietician and the psychologist must reconstruct man. The old pioneer saying was "full o'beans," a wise aphorism we should now recall, and possibly implement. —London Free Press.

One of the living tragedies of our time is the growth of loneliness, a condition that particularly afflicts the aged. "I am old and nobody wants to be bothered with me now," said a man who, years ago, had been the centre of a lively social circle in this city. The awful premonition that the declining years of life may be bleak and lonely casts a deepening shadow over the personality of many an active man in old age. The sense of insecurity of it is emotional. Might we not ask ourselves whether, in our anxiety to ensure for children a balanced emotional background, we are not ignoring the other end of the human family? The challenge of this generation is to provide for the increasing number of aged folk a life that is free from economic want and warmed by the sunshine of human companionship. Model homes for the aged which provide every physical comfort are important in their way, but they do not fill the gap that once was filled by family and friends. —Hamilton Spectator.

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