

THE GUARDIAN

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"The Strongest Memory is Weaker Than the Weakest Ink"

CHARLOTTETOWN, WEDNESDAY, JULY 25, 1951

Alliance With Spain?

Washington's overtures towards Madrid, seemingly aimed at a military alliance with Spain, have evoked violent outbursts among Atlantic Pact countries. Reaction in London and Paris has been distinctly hostile. Ottawa is silent on the question. It seems reasonably clear, however, that any attempt on the part of the United States to bring Spain into the North Atlantic Treaty Organization would seriously threaten the harmony which up to the present time has characterized NATO.

In view of the lively debate which is certain to surround Washington's move towards a military alliance with Generalissimo Franco, it may be useful to consider the pros and cons of the proposal dispassionately. For, after all, it is not so many years ago that the western democracies found themselves in close military alliance with another country whose political philosophy was even more alien to them than that of Franco.

Advocates of a military alliance with Spain argue that Franco's army of 350,000 men on active service and another 350,000 reservists is, in fact, the strongest force at the moment in western Europe. Equipped with modern arms, this army would provide a valuable adjunct to the forces being built up under General Eisenhower.

Spain's strategic importance is also put forward in support of a military alliance between Franco and the United States. The Pyrenees, it is said, provide a natural defensive barrier behind which United States air operations could be carried on against the Soviet Union without the danger of being driven out by potential enemy ground forces. In co-operation with the United States, Spain could offer an almost impregnable continental airstrip for American forays against Russia in event of war.

Finally, it is argued that the anti-Communist character of the Franco regime is in itself ground for following what some in Washington regard as realistic strategy in the construction of the defences of western Europe.

Opponents of the proposed alliance point to the political capital which Communists and others can make of an American alliance with a regime which is admittedly totalitarian. There is also the certain danger of weakening the solidity of the NATO organization through the diversion of war equipment coming from the United States to Spain, rather than to the Atlantic Pact countries, which feel that they have a prior claim on such assistance.

The situation promises to present one of the thorniest diplomatic issues in a long time. It is an issue, fortunately, in which Canada is not directly involved. In the circumstances, it is the kind of situation in which, so far as Ottawa is concerned, discretion should be considered the better part of valour.

Litter Louts

This Island is generously endowed with beautiful picnic spots and wonderful beaches for sunning or swimming. Unfortunately many holiday-makers treat these things as if no one, not even themselves, would be using them again. Litter of all kinds scattered in a beautiful setting is anything but a cheering sight, but broken bottles can turn a happy outing into a very risky undertaking indeed.

It is no use to complain that the authorities ought to do something about it. Their best efforts could not keep up with a succession of careless picnickers. The only answer is for all who use and enjoy the countryside and shore to make a point of leaving it looking better than they find it. In other words, be good neighbours and not litter louts.

Sound Advice

Sacrifice and self-denial are not popular planks of any platform today, (says Canadian Chamber of Commerce Letter). It is, however, impossible to undertake a greatly increased program of spending without at the same time accepting the necessity for a greatly increased rate of production. We can't have it both ways. We can't consume more and produce the same amount or less. Due to technological improvements, we have, in the past, been able to reduce gradually the number of work-hours per man and still produce at a high

er rate, and to a certain extent that still can be done. However, we must gear our standard of living to the actual increase in production. We are attacking the problem from the wrong angle when we spend our money before we produce it. In times such as these there must be recognition of the fact that increased spending for defence purposes is a necessity but hand-in-hand with that recognition must come the understanding that we on the home front must share with those in the front line of action, the sacrifices necessary for survival.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Women are now part and parcel of the R. C. A. F.—More power to their arm!

Marshal Petain's career is an example of how one mistake may ruin a lifetime's reputation.

Prince County is in the swim of Government patronage, thanks largely to efficient representation through Mr. Watson MacNaught.

The "cats' eyes" forming the centre-line of the St. Peters Road really come into their own when the rare but baffling night fog drifts up from the river.

Detroit is celebrating its 250th anniversary, an occasion which can be joined in by Canadians as neighbours and by all the world as beneficiaries of the system of mass production brought to early perfection in that city.

Canterbury puts Detroit's 250 years somewhat in the shade by celebrating its own 2000 years of history, and its contribution to the religious life of the world is at least as outstanding as that of Detroit to transportation.

The popular Rocky Point Wharf is beginning to look its old self again through the repairs being carried out by the Public Works Department. The ferry is the most popular outing for thousands of citizens, both young and old.

A one-uniform Western army would have two ultimate consequences. It would serve to indicate the difference between Christian-inspired and Communist-inspired civilizations; and wipe out nationalism, including local ideas of patriotism.

The U. K. Ministry of Defence announces that the term "amphibious warfare" will be used in future instead of "combined operations" to describe operations involving two or all of the fighting services of Britain.

There are 3,136 old age pensioners in the Province who will be entitled to \$40 per month after January 1. The number over 70, not now on the pension list who will be entitled to \$40 per month is 3,064, or 6,200 all told. This apart from blind pensioners. The total cost for Canada is estimated at \$343,000,000 a year.

Despite the expressed wish of Princess Elizabeth that arrangements for the tour should be kept as simple as possible it is certain that most Canadians will want to be as well turned-out as possible. Policemen, firemen, servicemen and the ordinary citizen will be giving thought to what they are to wear for the Royal visit.

The empty decks and radar-room control envisaged for Canadian ships of the future may come to pass, but in war the enemy has an uncomfortable habit of engaging closely, unless one beats him to it, and it is not impossible that everything including monkey wrenches will play a part on occasion.

One of the unfortunate results of the division of the world into communist and non-communist camps is the necessity of curtailing the ready communication within scientific circles. Britain's action in prohibiting the visit to Russia of atomic scientist E. H. Bishop is regrettable from a purely educational point of view, but only ordinary prudence in the world of today.

Samuel Taylor Coleridge, English poet, philosopher and critic, died this date 1834. He wrote "The Ancient Mariner", "Christabel", "Kubla Khan" and "Table Talk" as well as numerous other works. Coleridge's life was largely a struggle against want, pain, opium and domestic unhappiness and in his own day, the most successful of his writings was a play "Remorse: a Tragedy", performed in 1813.

A new fabric—a mixture of 50 per cent pure merino wool and 50 per cent super combed Egyptian cotton which gives the finest texture of any wool-cotton blend ever produced—was shown at the Savoy Hotel in London, recently. It is the result of two years' research and is said to combine the warmth of wool with the washable qualities of cotton.

Dr. Elzear Campagne, international authority on pollen, estimates P.E.I. to have one of the lowest counts of hay fever pollen on the continent.

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Old Charlottetown

NEW CHURCH BELL "St. Paul's Catholic Church, Summerside, has been provided with a new Bell, weighing over seven hundred pounds, which was made by the McShane Bell Co., Baltimore. This fine Bell has been presented by Francis Malone, Esq., DeSable, and for this generous act Mr. Malone deserves the most heartfelt gratitude of the Catholic people of this town. It is not often that we are called upon to record such an act of generosity." —Summerside Progress, July 16, 1947.

Versatile Canadian

Mrs. Frances Shelley Wees feels that lines from her blank verse, "Geography Lesson", convey best her impressions of this section of Canada: "The old Provinces lie in our mind as history... in our hearts as home... In them still grows the old mother root of our proud future." The successful Canadian author of 16 novels, with her husband, Dr. W. R. Wees, is currently visiting many Maritime Provinces points. During her stop-over in Saint John, she noted that it was her first visit to the Maritimes in more than 13 years. Dr. and Mrs. Wees are from Toronto. Dr. Wees is managing director of the W. J. Gage Publishing Company, Toronto, and has been consulting with officials of Provincial Education Department in the Maritime Provinces concerning a text book which his company will meet. Well-known across Canada, Dr. Wees is one of the country's foremost educationalists, and with M.A., M. Educ., and Ph.D. degrees. Mrs. Wees, accompanying her husband, is constantly gathering material for further articles. One of Canada's most versatile writers, known in Canada and the United States, and with only high-school and normal school education, she tells how she launched her writing career by breaking down and analyzing over 200 books on technique, and compiling the results for her own use "in a very large notebook".

Her career began when her husband arranged for publication of a mystery novel, "The Maestro Murderer", one of several she had undertaken simply for exercise in curbing verbiage, and then shelved. Published in mid-depression years, the book sold 50,300 copies, was reprinted in England, and was followed by several more thrillers. She abandoned the sleuthing tradition for the appeal of romantic novels later, and most of her later books, among them "Under the Quiet Water", have been romantic in tone. Although Mrs. Wees was living in a small Alberta town when she published her first novel, the experience from which she selects material is much more than humdrum. She speaks of living on the University of Alberta campus while her husband attended classes and keeping abreast of his courses despite the demands of a home and young child. She has taught school for several years, worked with UNRRA in Ottawa during the war, and with a public relations firm in Toronto.

An accident injuring her head a year ago made her temporarily blind, and confined her to bed for many weeks. She has not yet fully recovered her vision, and her writing volume is also slowly returning to normal.

In addition to her novels, Mrs. Wees has written a variety of articles and books, including a series of primary text books, "Pathways to Reading," which were adopted 10 years ago by the New Brunswick Department of Education for use in Provincial schools. Dr. and Mrs. Wees sound even more busy when they tell about their huge woodlot and summer place, 17 miles outside Toronto.

Economic Progress

(U.K. Information Office) Rising productivity and a new low level of unemployment were among the favourable factors reported in a review of Britain's economic progress in the first half of 1951, by the Chancellor of the Exchequer, Mr. Hugh Gaitskill addressing the press in London, on July 4th. Unfavourable highlights included a widening of the trade gap and raw materials shortages. The Chancellor said the three main problems were: the need to re-arm, the shortage of key raw materials and the intensified rise of commodity prices. Nothing in the last three months had upset that analysis. But "in some respects, the prospect has so far turned out rather better than we had expected. In others, the unfavourable tendencies we foresaw have proved more forceful than anticipated". Industrial production was slightly better than anticipated. By the end of May, it was running at five per cent higher than in the same period of last year, compared with an estimated increase in the Economic Survey of four per cent for the whole year. The shortages had not, so far, had any widespread reaction on manufacturing output. While output of some goods e.g. passenger cars, sulphuric acid and rayon were below last year's highest levels, output of many important engineering products, machine tools and agriculture tractors continued to rise substantially. Coal production was just under three per cent higher than a year ago and output per man-shift rose from 1.19 tons to 1.2 tons, but the labour force was 2,200 less. Moreover, home consumption was four per cent higher. While steel capacity increased by about 45 million tons to about 16.75 million tons, the rate of production has been 16.4 million tons or 3 million tons less than in the same period of last year. It was hoped to get 16 million tons in the whole year, but this depended partly on scrap supplies from home and abroad and partly on further increasing pig iron output. This, in turn, depended on importing sufficient iron ore. The shortage of sheet steel to meet defence as well as civilian requirements had shown itself in a six per cent decline in passenger car output up to the end of May. More merchant ships were under construction, two-fifths of them for export, production of textile yarns and fabrics was somewhat higher. Unemployment was the lowest since 1946 at one per cent in mid-May compared with 1.5 a year earlier. In this very full employment, it was of the utmost importance that mobility of labour be encouraged. Turning to the balance of payments, the Chancellor said that maintenance of the current balance on overseas transactions, announced as an objective during the re-armament period, was turning out even more difficult than was expected. Import prices were 42 per cent higher than the 1950 average, whereas export prices were 18 per cent higher. The monthly volume of goods imported in January to May was nine per cent higher than the 1950 average and exports only four per cent higher. Total imports were £1,490 million c. i. f. to the end of May and exports £1,096 million f. o. b.—both figures worse than the Economic Survey suggested three months ago.

The Poet's Corner

FARM LANDS If from the sum of all things I could subtract the sometimes blatant spring Or garish sun; discount the lenient summer showers And time-named peace of sunset; Refuse the worth in height of hills; Ignore the land producing grain or flower— Then I would have you silently attend The resonant flush of autumn, the thunder And dark light of seasonal storms. The flashing voice of elemental night; I'd score with challenge in a sunset. Or perspective from the closed intimacy of valleys; And on a curve of fallow earth I would have red hips of rose-bush and a silky weed Outline the rose. —Margaret Beaumont.

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Notes By The Way

The King of Egypt, playing around the luxury spots of Europe with his new wife, repeatedly has come in conflict with press photographers. He hasn't yet learned that the first attribute of royalty ought to be courtesy. — Ottawa Journal.

Easiest thing in the world to make is "dehydrated water." You can make it yourself, right in your own kitchen. Just put some ordinary water in a kettle, turn on the heat, forget it, and eventually it's completely dehydrated. What this product is good for we don't know. Indians did it with sap, and discovered maple sugar, proving that the noble Red Man isn't as sappy as you think. — Ottawa Citizen.

Attempts to produce rain artificially have been attended by three different reactions: They work they don't work, they upset the weather balance over wide areas. At present the third of these is being heard. The unseasonable flooding which has brought \$750,000,000 damage to Kansas City, and is threatening St. Louis, is attributed by a scientist to rains artificially produced in the Midwest. At least one weather bureau expert has discounted the suggestion, but as it was advanced by a responsible scientist, more than scorn will be required to quash it. Two or three years ago the idea of producing rain by seeding clouds was seriously challenged. One official United States service wrote it off as a small practical importance. About that time Canada's National Research Council decided to make an independent investigation of rain-making, to learn if it was a pipe-dream, or what. We still haven't seen its findings. In view of these delays, it may be some time before a categorical answer can be given to the question whether rain-making produces climatic irregularities over wide areas. Kansas City can expect no immediate redress from that quarter, nor any guarantee that summer flooding is at an end. — Windsor Daily Star.

The Age-Old Story

How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him that bringeth good tidings, that publisheth peace; that bringeth good tidings of good, that publisheth salvation; that saith unto Zion, Thy God reigneth! Thy watchmen shall lift up the voice; with the voice together shall they sing: for they shall see eye to eye, when the Lord shall bring again Zion.

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