

THE GUARDIAN

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"The Strongest Memory is Weaker Than the Weakest Ink"

CHARLOTTETOWN, FRIDAY, MAY 4, 1951

Conference Crazy?

Time was when just about the only travelling a Member of Parliament got without paying his own fare was a railway pass to Ottawa. Nowadays, however, politicians and bureaucrats alike share in the travel plums that are offered by way of attendance at the scores of international conferences at which Canada is represented every year, and which provide opportunity for seeing the world at the taxpayers' expense.

Canada sent delegates to 168 such conferences last year. 21 of these were held under UN auspices. 46 were conclaves organized by UN's so-called "specialized agencies" such as UNESCO, WHO, FAO and other bodies. 61 were convened by inter-governmental organizations and the remaining 40 by non-governmental groups. Geneva, Paris, London, and more exotic centres in Asia and South America were among the places visited by those fortunate enough to clamber on tours organized under the auspices of the Department of External Affairs.

Opposition Leader George Drew says that official Ottawa is "conference crazy". Certainly it is hard to understand why Canada was officially represented at the Washington conference of the Society of Vertebrate Palaeontology, or at the Santiago Assembly on Geography, or the Sanitary conference at Ciudad Trujillo, or the Refrigeration conference in Paris, or the UNESCO-sponsored Exchange of Persons conclave at Havana, or the General Assembly for the Protection of Nature at Brussels.

Tax-conscious Canadians will share the views of at least one member of Parliament who feels that "this ever-widening wanderlust of travelling delegations can be curtailed and brought within reasonable limits."

No Pound Of Flesh

Canada is indeed fortunate in having a good neighbour to the south. The final exchange of notes has not yet taken place but Prime Minister St. Laurent has announced in the House of Commons that the United States is surrendering certain extra-territorial civilian rights in connection with Newfoundland bases.

The agreement conferring those rights and other military concessions was negotiated before Newfoundland became a Province and the ancient colony joined this country subject to the existing American treaty rights. They are, of course, irksome to this country which is jealous of any restrictions on its sovereignty but the United States was certainly under no obligation to give up one jot or tittle of the concessions which were granted in the 99-year lease back in 1941.

Happily an onerous agreement may always be modified when there is good will on both sides and we are under an obligation to see that our neighbour is not the loser by voluntarily relinquishing the contract rights.

Irish Moss

Irish Moss or Carrageen Moss (Chondrus crispus) is plentiful around the shores of this Province and provides an important source of revenue to fishermen and their families. Like all raw materials, however, it should, if possible, be processed locally.

When the bleached and dried product is shipped off the Island the only revenue it provides is for the gathering, preparing and shipping. On the other hand it could form the basis of additions to the packing industry which would bring in greater revenue and provide employment for local labour.

There are many ways in which the moss can be utilized. There are many local products which could be jelled and packed with the use of agar, derived from the moss and local laboratories would find ready use for the purified product as a culture medium for bacteria.

Auto Compulsory Insurance

Establishment of compulsory insurance in New Brunswick, possibly under a government operated plan, is provided for (says the Telegraph-Journal) in amendments introduced to the Motor Vehicle Act, in the Legislature by Hon. W. S. Anderson, Minister of Public Works.

Mr. Anderson said the government after

much study had come to the conclusion that no motor vehicle or driver should be licensed to use the highways until proof of financial responsibility had been established to compensate for any loss or injury they may cause. It was desirable, he said, that this proof of financial responsibility be furnished before an accident causing death or injury occurs. Present legislation does not require this, Mr. Anderson said.

If satisfactory arrangements can not be made through existing insurance companies, consideration will then be given to a government operated plan. Mr. Anderson said the measure was part of a comprehensive plan to promote highway safety and security in New Brunswick.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Catholic Social Welfare Bureau tag day tomorrow.

This is the time of year when Islanders read of heat waves but find it difficult to believe in their existence.

The Island welcomes many distinguished visitors here to honour the first graduating class of airmen of the Atlantic Pact nations at the Summerside air station.

As was pointed out by several members of the Commons the general sales tax is the poor man's income tax. There is no basic exemption. All pay the levy on their purchases whether out of a large income or small.

Prime Minister and Mrs. St. Laurent have entered into their half-a-million home, 24 Sussex St., Ottawa, for which they agree of their own free will to pay \$5,000 per annum rental. That is 10% of the cost of the home to the Government of which they become tenants during the Prime Minister's tenure of office.

It is a pity that some of the smaller bee-keepers should be dropping out of the honey industry. The value of bees is certainly more in the increased crop yield which they bring about than in the direct value of honey produced. It is satisfactory at least that the remaining apiarists will handle a greater total bee population.

The splendid showing of the U. N. forces in the face of the great Communist drive should not cause us to overlook the fact that they are fighting under most adverse conditions imposed by those responsible for high policy. The fighting men are paying the price of avoiding the danger of spreading the scope of hostilities.

Dr. David Livingstone, African traveller, died this date 1873. Born at Blantyre, Scotland, he became a cotton worker, medical missionary and finally colonial administrator. He explored great stretches of Africa, discovering the Victoria Falls. He died south of Lake Bangweolo and his body was carried to the coast by his faithful followers. He was buried in Westminster Abbey.

Because of television competition American radio companies, including Columbia Broadcasting System, Radio Corporation of America, Philco Corporation, Allen B. Du Mont Laboratories, Inc., Emerson Radio and Phonograph Co., and Westinghouse Electric Corporation, Admiral Corporation have cut their advertising rates 10 to 15 per cent.

In connection with Mental Health Week, Dr. J. C. Meakins, president of the Canadian Mental Health Association declares Canada has 1,000,000 citizens permanently, partially or temporarily disabled by mental ill-health at a cost, direct or indirect, of \$800,000,000 a year. "In 1945 the population of Canada's mental hospitals was some 50,000. Today it is approaching 65,000, or an increase of three per cent a year," Dr. Meakins said.

Are we stodgy? At a Canadian club dinner in Toronto, Hon. C. G. Power, wartime Air Minister, in referring to the demonstrations in U. S. A. over the return home of General MacArthur, thought the Canadian people would be more likely to retain a greater element of rationality than was shown in his reception. He underlined his feeling when he said: "Thank Heaven that Canada continues to be inhabited by a stodgy people."

"There should be enough tailored clothing, fabrics and wool to supply the nation's needs for a year or more to come without coming into possession of another pound of wool," says the Market Planning Service of the National Credit Office, Inc., New York. "As for the consumer—his lot is not the happiest one. That he will have to pay sharply higher prices for clothing is a certainty. That he faces a loss in quality is more than possible." But he can take comfort in the knowledge that by no means is he in imminent danger of a clothing famine.

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.

ELECTRIC RATES

May I ask through your Forum for information on the following: I see by an advertisement in the press that the Maritime Electric Company is applying for an increase in rates, or at least I assume this meeting is for this purpose. I would like to get information on the following:

1. As writer understands it we are supposed to be supplied with a certain voltage. If at all times, or if at different periods during the day, voltage falls considerably below what we are supposed to receive, would not that mean that consumer was using, and paying for, much more power than necessary? At certain times on an electric stove it takes fully twice as long for water to heat as at other times. Would not this be due to low voltage?

2. Would it be possible that voltage could show all right at the plant and yet in all, or in many cases, consumer voltage could be away down and below what it should be due to fact that transformers were overloaded?

3. Are transformers ever checked to see if overloaded or not? Many transformers have doubtless been in use for many years, and while suitable when installed, dozens of new installations have been put in since. If transformers could not now properly carry the load would this affect the voltage and so increase cost electricity to consumer?

4. Is it the duty of the Public Utility Board, or any other board, to check up on above items for the protection of the consumer or are such boards simply there to act as "rubber stamps" whenever a utility corporation wishes to procure a rate increase? Any information would be appreciated.

I am, Sir, etc. HOUSEHOLD USER Charlottetown.

THAT 2 1/2 PER CENT

Sir,—That 2 1/2 per cent is manufactured by the brewers for the express purpose of teaching young people to drink stronger liquor. It is one of the shrewdest devices ever devised for this purpose. It is within the law and is sold in great quantities all over Canada. I have been unable to find out the amount spent on 2 1/2 per cent in this Province but it must run into many thousands. Men who like hard liquor drink it freely for it gives them the feel of whiskey. After drinking a lot of it they are satisfied for the time being until they can get the stronger stuff for which they crave.

We don't mind so much the quantity the old toppers drink, but we do care that the young and unsuspecting are drinking it and getting the faint feel of intoxication which whets their curiosity for a real experience.

Few but the temperance cranks will think there is any harm in 2 1/2 per cent. This is why it is such an excellent device for teaching young people to drink stronger liquor. The money wasted on these drinks, for there is nothing at all compared to the young lives that are in danger of being blighted through drink which they are being led into by 2 1/2 per cent.

The new Temperance Act allows it, in fact, encourages its use. That is, it keeps the letter of a very bad law and breaks the spirit of it, which professes to discourage drinking among the young. For the sake of our children, our most precious possession, the hope of our country, the sale of this 2 1/2 per cent should be discontinued. The motive prompting its sale is money profit. We should understand, quite clearly, that this profit is at the expense of our children's future welfare, for which God will hold us responsible.

I am, Sir, etc. W. I. GREEN. Stanley Bridge.

The Poet's Corner

THE FLOWER-FED BUFFALOES

The flower-fed buffaloes of the spring In the days of long ago, Ranged where the locomotives sng And the prairie flowers lie low; The tossing, blooming, perfumed grass Is swept away by wheat. Wheels and wheels and wheels spin by In the spring that still is sweet. But the flower-fed buffaloes of the spring Left us long ago. They gored no more, they bellow no more. They trundled around the hills no more. With the Blackfeet lying low. With the Pawnees lying low.

—Vachel Lindsay. LONG RULE

Indonesia, now a Republic, was under Netherlands rule from early in the 17th Century.

WASHINGTON, May 1 (AP)—The government today extended indefinitely the present ceiling prices on passenger automobiles. The Office of Price Stabilization order also directed that manufacturers make reductions from charges for cars delivered without a spare tire and tube.



Three Power Pacific Pact

(By W. N. Ewer)

The fact that the United States, Australia and New Zealand are to negotiate a security pact in which the U. K. will take no part has given rise to all sorts of comment and speculation. It has been suggested in more than one quarter that this signifies a drawing away on the part of Australia and New Zealand from the Commonwealth and from British connections towards a new association in which they would be linked rather with the U. S. A. than with the U. K.

Now, this seems to me to spring from a certain misapprehension of the real character of the proposed pact. And that misapprehension is, perhaps, in some measure due to the fact that it is being generally spoken of as a "pacific" pact. It is worth while recalling the steps which have led to the proposal. The question of defence arrangements in the Pacific area was first raised by the U. S. A. in January, as Mr. Kenneth Younger has stated in the House of Commons. Conversations took place between the U. S. A., Australia and New Zealand and Britain. Britain agreed that a tri-partite agreement, suggested to the U. S. A. by Australia and New Zealand, was the best practical method in the present circumstances for securing the defence of Australia and New Zealand against any aggression. During these consultations, Britain made it clear that when wider security arrangements were made for the area, she would wish to be formally associated with them.

"Pacific Pact", then, though obviously a convenient phrase, does give rather a wrong idea of the present proposal. It does immediately suggest a parallel with the North Atlantic Treaty. But the two are really completely different. The North Atlantic Treaty organization includes all, or nearly all, the free nations with territories on or near the North Atlantic. The proposed Pacific Pact is to include three powers only. It is more comparable with the five-power Brussels Treaty Organization—the so-called "Western Union"—which preceded the North Atlantic Treaty and from which the North Atlantic Treaty Organization developed.

Now, if it were a question of an all-Pacific Pact, including most of the free nations with territories on or around the Pacific, then it would be natural and, indeed, essential that the U. K. should play a part. But, at the moment, there is no question of such a wider organization. The idea is certainly there, and is frequently discussed. But it is not at the present time within the range of practical politics.

The pact, with which we are dealing, is on a far narrower basis. It may, in the course of time, be, as it were, the nucleus of a wider organization. But, for the moment, the plan is only for a limited organization with limited objectives and obligations. The U. S. A. is to give some form of assurance that as President Truman has phrased it, the United States would not regard with indifference any armed attack on Australia or New Zealand, while, naturally, they will undertake reciprocal obligations towards the U. S. A.

But even so, it may be asked why the U. K. should not be a fourth partner in such a system, which is in fact regarded as a most useful contribution to Commonwealth strategy. The answer is surely obvious. The admission of the U. K.—its signature of these reciprocal guarantees—would be completely superfluous. For, in the case of the U. K., these guarantees exist. The U. K. has already undertaken all obligations which would arise from its signature to such a treaty. Britain, Australia and New Zealand have indeed publicly stated that this agreement in no way weakens but rather enhances their mutual obligations.

It is true that in the case of Australia and New Zealand there is no kind of formal or written undertaking by the U. K. to come to their assistance in the event of an armed attack upon them. But, nevertheless, that obligation exists and is accepted, and is far stronger than any treaty guarantee could possibly be. It is so strong, so much taken for granted, that nobody has even suggested that it should be put on paper. All the world knows that any attack upon Australia or New Zealand would be regarded by the U. K. as an attack upon itself. All the world knows that Australia and New Zealand would both consider any attack upon the U. K. as an attack upon them. They have proved that in two wars. These unwritten bonds are so strong and so much taken completely for granted that there would be, both in this country and in these two

Moving Up



Old Charlottetown

(And P. E. I.)

USE OF BURIAL GROUND

The old Protestant cemetery on Elm Avenue is the ground referred to in the following report of a select committee submitted to the Legislative Assembly on March 31, 1950:

Your committee to whom was referred the petition of a number of the inhabitants of Charlottetown and its vicinity, relative to an exclusive right claimed by the Church of England to the Public Burying Ground, beg leave to report, that they made a careful examination at the Registry Office, and found that in October, 1826, there was a grant made by the Hon. President Wright to the Episcopal Minister and Church Warden of the Parish of Charlottetown, and their successors in office, of the land formerly reserved as a Public Burying Ground, and which has been indiscriminately used as such, for upwards of half a century; that there appears to have been a petition from the present Rector, the then Church Warden, and fifteen other individuals, presented to the Bishop of Nova Scotia, to have the said Burying Ground consecrated; that in compliance therewith his Lordship did then perform the ceremony in due form, which with the petition is recorded along with the said grant. Whether such grant or consecration can really invalidate the rights and claims of other denominations, is a problem which your committee cannot take upon themselves to solve."

The House having taken the above report into consideration, it was thereupon, on motion of Mr. Lewellin, resolved unanimously: "That no religious rite or ceremony can invalidate rights acquired by prescription, and usesage uninterruptedly continued for so long a period, under the immediate cognizance of the Executive Government."

Pacific countries, even a certain resentment of the very idea of embodying them in a formal contract. That being so, U.K. adherence to this new three-power pact would not in the slightest degree increase our obligation towards Australia and New Zealand. It could not be increased by any form of words at all. But what about the relationship between the U. K. and the U. S. A.? Here again, one important thing seems to have been completely overlooked by the commentators. It is that the United Kingdom already has obligations of this kind towards the U. S. A. as the North Atlantic Treaty applies to the North American continent as well as to Western Europe. So that under it, the United Kingdom is already pledged to regard any attack upon the territory of the U. S. A. as an attack upon itself. Again, then, signature of the new Pacific Pact would not alter the situation in the least. Or, if one wishes to be pedantic and meticulous, the only change that it would make is that we should have to regard as a *casus belli* an attack by some foreign power directed not only against the continental territory of the U. S. A., but also against Hawaii or the Aleutian Islands, which is an eventuality that hardly seems worth worrying about.

So that, both as regards the U. S. A. and as regards Australia and New Zealand, the U. K. is already bound to regard any attack upon the territory of the U. S. A. as an attack upon itself. Again, then, signature of the new Pacific Pact would not alter the situation in the least. Or, if one wishes to be pedantic and meticulous, the only change that it would make is that we should have to regard as a *casus belli* an attack by some foreign power directed not only against the continental territory of the U. S. A., but also against Hawaii or the Aleutian Islands, which is an eventuality that hardly seems worth worrying about.

The Age-Old Story

And I, brethren, could not speak unto you as unto spiritual, but as unto carnal, even as unto babes in Christ. . . . For ye are yet carnal: for whereas there is among you envying, and strife, and divisions, are ye not carnal, and walk as men? For while I said, I am of Paul; and another, I am of Apollus; are ye not carnal? Who then is Paul, and who is Apollus, but ministers by whom ye believed, even as the Lord gave to every man? I have planted, Apollus watered; but God gave the increase. So then neither he that planteth any thing, neither he that watereth; but God that giveth the increase.

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Notes By The Way

Someone is always disturbing the peace. With the Stone of Scone furore pretty well calmed down, Lady Astor comes out and says Joe Stalin "looks like Scott". So the heather's afire again! — Ottawa Citizen.

The idea that Indians should be treated as wards of the Crown — virtually as children — has not worked well. They have been treated more as stepchildren, and have not been encouraged to undertake the full duties and responsibilities of citizenship. Perhaps some measure of protection is still necessary. But surely Indians are entitled to full citizenship. — London Free Press.

The British physicist, Professor P. M. S. Blackett, has announced that so far as science can tell, cosmic rays are "completely and absolutely useless" for man's purposes. Humanity cannot employ them either for good or for ill. Our Victorian ancestors would have been shocked by this revelation. They expected everything to have a use, and a good use, just as they expected everybody to have a purpose, and a good purpose. They would have regarded cosmic rays as feckless good-for-nothings, frivolously darting about when they should have been driving steam-engines. We, on the other hand, are relieved. We, too, expect everything to have a use — but not necessarily a good use. Only too often, and especially in the world of science, it turns out to be a bad use. But Professor Blackett tells us that this is not the case with cosmic rays; as they cannot be used to uplift humanity, so they cannot be used to exterminate it, and that, in 1951, is the real consideration. It is comforting, somehow, to think of the cosmic rays rushing cheerfully around, harming nobody, creating no problems, facing the poor beaten-out human race with no crisis or challenge. We may feel as affectionately toward them as Emerson felt toward the four snakes he once found, "gliding up and down a hollow for no purpose that I could see; not to eat, not for love, but only gliding." — Toronto Globe & Mail.

New Zealand, no useful purpose whatever would be served by the U. K. joining formally in the new association. It would not change the realities at all. And let me repeat, in the case of the two Dominions, it would be regarded both there and in this country as sentimentally undesirable. In fact, paradoxical as it may sound, the absence of the United Kingdom from this new association, so far from signifying any lessening or weakening of the Commonwealth association, is a demonstration of its unshakable strength.

It must, I suppose, appear a little strange to some people that it is possible and compatible with the existence of the Commonwealth that two of its members should sign a treaty of alliance with a state outside the Commonwealth, by themselves and without other partners. But there is nothing strange, or even new, in this. Already the U. K. and Canada — the two North Atlantic Commonwealth states — have signed the North Atlantic Treaty. And it seems to us just as natural that two specific Commonwealth states should sign a security treaty which applies to their own area. That may seem exceedingly illogical. But the first thing which has to be realized about the Commonwealth is that, although it is completely illogical, it has, none the less, a very real existence. That, indeed, seems to be the point which has been overlooked in so many comments upon this new Pacific Pact, and the United Kingdom's relation to it. The U. S. A. Government appreciates the position perfectly well and the whole Treaty Association, like the informal conversations which have taken place already, has started from the assumption that links between the United Kingdom, strong and so complete that their existence and their permanence can be taken as a matter of course. Australia and New Zealand are so

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