

Published every week-day morning at 136 Prince Street, Charlotteville, P.E.I., by The Thomson Company Limited

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General Manager, Ian A. Burnett

Branch offices at Summerside, Montague and Alberton. Also at Second Class Mail by the Post Office Department, Ottawa.

By Carrier: Charlottetown, Summerside \$15.00 per annum; Elsewhere in P.E.I. \$9.00. Other Provinces and U.S. \$12.00 per annum.

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

TUESDAY, FEB. 15, 1955

The First Requisite

The popular assumption in the West is that, although Soviet Russia has more manpower to mobilize in time of war than has the United States, superiority in industrial and scientific potential is definitely with the latter country.

The figures and their implications serve to emphasize a fundamental difference between democratic and totalitarian practices in governmental and economic fields.

How to reverse the trend towards Russian superiority in this vital field, without having to resort to the sort of governmental control which is foreign to the democratic way of life, is a problem of real magnitude; but certainly the security, and perhaps the survival of Western freedom, depends in large measure on its solution.

Defense Obligations

The Eisenhower budget for next year contemplates a total expenditure of \$60 billion, of which \$40 billion, or 66 per cent, is for army, navy and air force.

There was a time, notes The Printed Word, when residents of the United States, many of whom are still living, were boasting that their Congress was a Billion-Dollar Congress. Soon thereafter, the billion dollars expended in two years became a billion dollars expended in one year.

Not many citizens of the U. S. would see any connection between this economy of government expenditure and the Monroe Doctrine. The Monroe Doctrine, it will be recalled, was a device, attributed to President Monroe, whereby the United States declared to the world that it would not permit any foreign (that is, European) power to establish more territorial rights in this hemisphere than it had up to that time.

The point of all this is that Canada, too, has benefited from the Monroe Doctrine, certainly up to 1914, and now benefits further from the fact that the United States, to defend itself, must defend Canada. This is a convenient arrangement, but it has its dangers. It is dangerous if it encourages us to regard our external obligations, which means our internal defense, as something provided for by providential dispensation, and not merely a fortunate circumstance which we must underwrite to

the greatest possible extent if its insurance value is to be maintained on a level with current risks and future contingencies.

The Nevadans Are Unhappy

Excepting the Formosan Straits and other areas where an outbreak of war is possible at any moment, the State of Nevada is probably the most jittery part of the world these days; for it is there that the American Atomic Energy Commission is preparing for a series of nuclear explosions some time this month.

For the last several weeks experts have been travelling from one isolated community to another assuring the people that they need have no fear of "fall-out radiation" from the forthcoming explosions.

The deserts of Nevada have their own peculiar attractiveness; but we may be sure that at this moment the inhabitants of that region would feel a thousand times happier if there was not an acre of desert land anywhere in their sagebrush State.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Singapore lost this date, 1942.

A small college in the States is offering a thousand dollar prize to the student who, at the end of the college year, is judged most competent in the art of putting constructive thoughts in short speeches.

It would serve the political forecasters right if Premier Matheson were to decide to postpone the general election to the very last moment permitted by law.

Dr. Otto Strasser's anxiety to get back to his homeland is understandable. He would be well advised, however, to combine caution with haste in his political ambitions.

Mr. John D. Rockefeller, Jr. recently added to his philanthropic enterprises by giving \$20 million to develop religious education in the United States.

President R. M. Fowler of the Canadian Pulp and Paper Association made some very interesting observations at the recent annual meeting of his group; one of these would seem to be of special public concern.

According to Mr. Frank T. Sherk, president of the Canadian Food Processors Association, sales in retail food stores in Canada have climbed to 229 per cent since 1941, while population growth in the same period was only 22 per cent.



The Makings Of A Free-For-All

Freedom Of The Press

By Frank Flaherty

Freedom of the press is part of the constitutional and cultural heritage of Canada received from the United Kingdom. Eminent jurists both in Canada and in the United Kingdom have pronounced it an essential part of our system of democratic Parliamentary government.

Since the British constitution is unwritten it contains no precise definition of this freedom. Neither does the British North America Act under which the British constitutional system became officially implanted in Canada.

Freedom of the press is a principle that is common to all free societies. The reasons for this were pointed up by Mr. Justice L. A. Cannon of the Supreme Court of Canada in a judgment delivered in 1938 on laws passed by the Alberta legislature.

Before freedom of the press became established the press had to contend with three different forms of restriction. First there was control over printing. When the printing press came to England the authorities were licensed by the government.

Another phase of the press to freedom was the right of the press to information on public affairs, specifically the right to report debates in Parliament.

This view found support in at least one official statement from the government of Canada. At the second General Assembly of the United Nations the Canadian delegate said:

"The people and the government of my country believe that freedom of information and freedom of the press are not only basic freedoms in themselves but are essential to the exercise of the other basic freedoms. Democracy implies that the ultimate responsibility for government policies is determined by the people."

"Unless the people have free and unfettered access through their independent news media to significant facts and opinions, wherever these may originate throughout the world, the people would be limited and impeded in their efforts to judge wisely the issues they are called upon to face."

The role of the state in economic and social affairs increases, attacks on freedom of the press tend to take a new line. It is sometimes alleged that privately-owned newspapers do not and cannot be expected to give the public the real facts, that state intervention or state control is necessary to protect the public's right to know.

This view so strongly held by a section of the British Labor party that the last British Labor government set up a royal commission to investigate the press.

The untaxed newspapers of the American colonies flourished while the British press was held back. The colonial press published and government set up a royal commission to investigate the press.

The Pool's Corner

The world outdoors is now a holy place. Enfolded round and round with angel wings. In white. A choir of birds no longer sings. Hosanna to the dawn, and green leaf-face. Becomes a memory. There's not a trace.

The world outdoors is now a holy place. Enfolded round and round with angel wings. In white. A choir of birds no longer sings.

And join the symphony of hurry ing feet.

Island Neighbors

Princess Margaret's visit in the British West Indies draws attention to tropical islands nearer to Canada than to the Mother Country.

The British possessions in the Queen's Antilles mark the dividing line between the Atlantic Ocean and the Caribbean Sea.

Later the voyage will bring Princess Margaret to Jamaica which is part of the Greater Antilles that include Cuba.

And it came to pass, when Jesus had ended these sayings, the people were astonished at his doctrine: for he taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes.

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Medically Speaking

Having trouble with your eyes? Do they itch and burn and water a great deal? Maybe you've got conjunctivitis, but don't worry; this type of infection will usually clear up within a few days to a week.

Conjunctivitis also frequently follows ordinary colds and the "catching" diseases of children. The delicate membrane that lines the eyelids and covers the eyeball is called the conjunctiva.

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NOTES BY THE WAY

We find a rather morbid comfort in those letters that arrive at our house addressed "Occupant," or "Householder." They prove there are at least some suckers leftists that we're not yet on.

Britons, regardless of who owns the plant they work in, belong to British unions; Belgians belong to Belgian unions; and so on down the line. Canadian workers are the only ones in the world who have no national trade union movement of their own.

Experience indicates that this year's epidemic among the dogs of Labrador differs little from similar occurrences in the past. Modern science may be able to pronounce accurately upon the causes and prescribe methods of prevention.

It is not time that Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother should have a little life of her own? Why do we selfishly ask that she should become Governor General of Canada and involve herself in the exciting duties which that position entails? Let us show, rather, that we would welcome her to come and live as a private citizen whenever she wishes.

That does it. We were just getting nicely agitated on another diet, when with wailing hands, shrieking and the cleaners not pressing our clothes properly. For two days nary a dessert had crossed our lips and the bread and butter wast-in-away unwanted on the side plate was reaching a considerable altitude. But now comes the Canada and Dominion Sugar Company Limited with a blurb about the glories of eating and the folly of diets. It winds up this way: "And remember the story of the guy who finally took off a few pounds, and a friend reported: 'He's not such a big fool as he used to be... he's thinner.'" Pass the cake please — Ottawa Journal.

Refrigeration

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