

THE GUARDIAN

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"The Strongest Memory is Weaker Than the Weakest Ink."

CHARLOTTETOWN, FRIDAY, JULY 21, 1950

Cabinet's Dilemma

The acceleration of Canada's defense effort, announced by the Prime Minister on Wednesday, involves the addition of possibly 8,000 men to the regular forces as well as double the production of fighter planes and the addition of several millions to the defense budget provided for at the last session of Parliament. Coupled with this announcement was the statement that Canada will not send any ground troops to Korea "at this stage" but will immediately consider Canadian participation in any United Nations plan to recruit an international force for that war. Such a step is now under study at Lake Success, and would be submitted to Parliament for approval if Canada participated.

Canada's Army at the present time consists of a single airborne brigade made up of three infantry battalions. A brigade is roughly one-third of a division. Of the three battalions, only two are fully trained. Along with the airborne brigade are two armored regiments.

Defence Minister Claxton and Headquarters Command appear to hold to the view that the single brigade presently trained and equipped for action must remain in Canada for two reasons. First, as an instructional unit around which a larger force may be built and trained. Second, as the only defence unit presently available in event of attack.

It will come as a shock to most Canadians to realize how slim is our armed strength at the present time. Yet it should occasion no surprise when it is remembered that, at the end of World War II, and despite the ominous signs of trouble even then apparent on the international horizon, the Government of the day chose to embark on a social security and welfare programme which, of necessity, had to be financed at the expense of national security itself. Faced with the choice between "guns or butter", the Government chose "butter". Consequence of that choice is the present unhappy predicament in which this country finds itself in respect of the request for manpower support for hard-pressed American troops in Korea.

Territorial Waters

The "Three Mile Limit" on national sovereignty over territorial waters is of very ancient origin and probably represented the effective range of control in early days. Times have changed and there is no doubt that so far as natural difficulties are concerned, any sea-girt nation could control its coastal waters to a distance of considerably more than three miles from its shores.

The U. N. International Law Commission has recognized that fact and the growing need for such control in many areas, and has recommended that national sovereignty should extend over the sea bed and the oceanic subsoil beyond the present three-mile limit, to take in areas defined by international agreement, but with the provision that the right of free navigation and free fisheries should not be affected.

Canada has an obvious case for assuming jurisdiction over the Gulf of St. Lawrence, enclosed as it now is by Canadian territory. The U. N. recommendation provides further grounds for also including the half million square miles of the Grand Banks within Canadian territory.

"Take Home" Pay

Time was when the concept of "take home" pay was an envelope containing weekly earnings out of which something was spent for food, clothing, shelter and the necessities of life, and out of which a bit was put by for a rainy day. Today, it is popularly supposed, the rainy day, whether it be illness, old age or some other circumstance, is the responsibility of government.

There was much merit in putting the hard cash for current and future responsibilities in one and the same pay envelope. Today, however, the future responsibilities take the form of promises to pay rather than hard cash. A "wet nurse" whether it be the Government or the trustees of a payroll deduction pension fund, get part of what used to belong in the pay envelope.

Regrettable aspect of this new concept of security is that it places definite restrictions upon the uses to which people can put part of their earnings. The employee whose pay envelope comes to him only after his contribution for security benefits have been

siphoned off may today willingly accept the promise of a pension in lieu of cash. What he cannot do, however, is to use the money to invest as he chooses. Nor does he have a nest egg which might be handy, if opportunity offered, to set himself up in his own little business.

Farmers of Canada are less affected by this concept of "take home" pay than most people. Cash crops are still cash crops, and even the most ardent security planners have not ventured as yet to suggest that Ottawa instead of the local branch of the chartered bank should become the custodian of the farmers' savings for a rainy day. No wonder city folk look with envy on the independence and spirit of self-reliance which still characterizes the agricultural workers of Canada.

EDITORIAL NOTES

The vacationing Islanders were very appreciative of the heartiness of the welcome they received Wednesday on revisiting their native heath.

Every bright light these nights is a centre of attraction for moths, usually "millers", and the number of these is really astonishing. Although they are a nuisance, they probably do far less harm in their present stage than they did earlier as grubs.

Boys returning from cadet and other camps are finding that summer jobs are already booked. Employers can encourage the healthful practice of attending such camps by making a special effort to place the returning youngsters.

President Truman's speech on the Korean situation was not unduly optimistic in text, but its timing would seem to indicate that he was now able to speak from strength rather than the earlier weakness of surprise.

The evangelical meetings being held by Rev. Dr. and Mrs. Templeton have been very largely attended, and will soon be drawing to a close. Rev. Dr. Templeton has created a very favourable impression, as has also his wife in her well chosen vocal contributions.

Robert Burns, poet, died this date 1796. Philosopher, humanist, and unorthodox Christian:

To make a happy fireside clime To weans and wife; That's the true pathos and sublime Of human life.

Cyprus, with a population of 500,000, wants to leave the British Commonwealth and to join Greece. Four-fifth of the inhabitants are linked with Greece, the remainder mainly Turks. Britain says she will abide by the decision of the United Nations when it considers the application.

The new Senator and the new Lieutenant-Governor are still to be announced. What can be holding up the announcement? Meantime the Liberal Government is busy making hay while the sun shines, sending representatives to address meetings wherever opportunity presents itself, even at boat races. A Provincial election may not be very far distant.

McGill University has accepted 116 students for admission into first year in the faculty of medicine for next September although applications totalled 2,500. Accommodation allows for no greater a body of students in first year. Only two per cent of applicants from the United States could be accepted — 1,500 Americans had applied. Admission for September is roughly one-third from Quebec, one-third from other Canadian provinces and one-third from outside Canada.

There is too pronounced a tendency today, Archbishop Maurice Roy of Quebec told the summer students at Laval, to treat men like animals, providing them with food and games but neglecting their higher faculties. Fifty years ago, the modern world appeared stable but there had been some hard lessons since and our world no longer is a world where men understood how to live in peace and how to ensure freedom for all.

"What excuse is there for the existence of a newspaper?" asks the Edmonton Bulletin. The prime purpose of any newspaper is the enlightenment of its readers. It gathers and prints as much of the news as it can in order that those who read it may know what is going on in their community, their country and the world. It comments on that news in order to relate it intelligently to other events. The news page tells the incidents. The editorial pages try to give the context. A second purpose of a good newspaper is to protest against injustice and ineptitude. Journalism is essentially a profession of protest. If newspapers accomplish these purposes with any degree of success they are doing a large and important job.

Shame-Facedly Yours



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.

COURTESY APPRECIATED

Sir, — This, being my first visit to your city, I am prompted to write of the inherent courtesy one receives on every hand and to especially mention Officer MacInnis. My car went dead exactly in the middle of your traffic centre. This officer relieved my embarrassment by saying, "Don't worry, we will get you out without trouble". So saying, he enlisted the help of two nearby citizens to push my car out of traffic, then sent me to the Texaco station and up came Jim Coles and had me going in no time. I have journeyed through every state in the U.S.A. and never received such courteous treatment anywhere. You may be sure my wife and two small children will be back again next year.

I am, Sir, etc. PAUL W. RYDER, N.E. Sales Mgr., Advertisers Exchange Inc., 381 4th Ave., New York.

Soviet Reaction To Korea

(By W. N. Ewer)

The Soviet Government continues to argue that all resolutions passed by the Security Council are "unlawful" and that, therefore, the action of the United States and other Governments in Korea is unlawful and "armed aggression against the Korean people". These contentions raise two separate questions. First, are the Council decisions "unlawful"? Second, if so, does that make the action taken to assist South Korea unlawful?

On the first, the Russian case is based primarily upon Article 27 of the United Nations Charter, which requires all except procedural decisions to be "made by an affirmative vote of seven members, including the concurring votes of permanent members". But that Article has been consistently interpreted by the Council itself, without any dissent or protest from any member state as allowing any permanent member to abstain from voting without thereby rendering the vote invalid. It is the only way in which a permanent member can register dissent from a decision while allowing the view of the majority to become effective. The Soviet Union itself has used this procedure and has accepted it without demur on other occasions.

Now, if the fact that a representative of a great power abstains from voting does not invalidate a resolution, it follows that the fact of his absence does not invalidate it. For absence is simply another form of abstention—abstention from attending a discussion as well as abstention from registering a vote.

Secondly, the Russians deny the validity of the resolution of June 27th on the ground that, of seven votes cast for it, one was that of the Chinese representative whose right to sit on the Council they challenge. This argument is, however, destroyed by the fact that the Government of India has since endorsed the resolution, which, therefore, has the support of the requisite seven members, even if the Chinese votes were disregarded. The Chinese problem is admittedly a difficult one. Five members of the Council recognize the "old", five the "new" Chinese Government. Under Article 27 a decision to oust the Nationalist delegates and admit the Communist would require seven votes. Unless and until those seven votes are cast for a change, a change cannot be made, even though Russia—and for that matter the United Kingdom, may desire it.

It is perhaps an absurd situation. But some way out might have been found if the Soviet Government had not attempted to enforce its will by "direct action". For the Soviet Government has decided to boycott the Council unless and until the majority agrees to do as the Soviet Government desires. Add to that its claim that, while the boycott con-

Old Charlottetown

(And P. E. I.)

DIM VIEW BY GASLIGHT

"The question appears to be almost universal throughout Charlottetown—why is it that we have such bad gas? We cannot answer, but certain it is that we have never had, and could scarcely have worse. The gas light under which we write at present is scarcely eighteen inches from the sheet of paper, yet we are compelled to have a lighted candle before us to enable us to see. It has gone out of its own accord four times within the last fifteen minutes, and is now fluttering like the snuff of an exhausted candle. We note the circumstance for the information of the Gas Company. Time? Friday evening, six o'clock. There is something very wrong about the transactions of the Company. If we are to have gas, let us have something deserving the name." —Hazard's Gazette Nov. 27, 1855

tinues, no act of the Council has any validity and you have the remarkable proposition that any permanent member can prevent the Council from functioning at all unless the views of that member upon any particular issue are accepted by the majority. That is the Soviet thesis. The arguments either side on the particular Chinese issue are irrelevant. The real question is whether a single great power has the right to prevent the Council from functioning unless it gets its own way.

Article 27 seems decisive: "The Security Council shall be so organized as to be able to function continuously". It cannot be stopped from functioning by any kind of one-state strike. Therefore, on whatever grounds the Soviet Government may seek to justify its absence from the Council table, it is impossible to hold that this absence can prevent the Council from discharging its duties under the charter. The Soviet claim is neither good law nor good sense.

I now pass to the second Soviet argument—that American action on the morning of June 27th, in coming to the aid of South Korea, is illegal and constitutes aggression, because it was taken in advance of the decision of the Security Council; and that, therefore, the Council and other members of the U. N. are condoning and supporting an aggression.

This argument is equally invalid. There is nothing in the Charter, or in any other international statute, which debar any government from taking action "for the suppression of acts of aggression or other breaches of the peace"—which, under Article 1 of the Charter, is one of the "purposes of the United Nations." The Council had already, on June 24th, declared that a "breach of the peace" had been committed.

Article 51 expressly refers to the "inherent right" of any member to take such action in advance of action by the Security Council in the case of "armed attack against a member of the United Nations". But the "inherent right" exists none the less if the victim of an attack is not a member of the United Nations. The Soviet Union has itself acted on the basis of that inherent right in concluding treaties of mutual assistance with Hungary, Rumania, Bulgaria, Albania and Outer Mongolia, none of which are members of the United Nations. It cannot now challenge that right without impugning the validity of its own treaties and accusing itself of committing illegalities.

In conclusion, it is as well to note the consequences which would follow from acceptance of the Soviet arguments. It would follow that the victim (not being a member of the U. N.) of any attack which the Soviet Government—or any other great power—chose to commit or condone, could receive no help at all. For a great power could, by absence or veto, prevent the Security Council from acting; and any action taken without authority of the Council would be "illegal" and would constitute "aggression".

Even the Soviet Government would hardly accept that proposition. Yet, unless it is accepted, (with its own alliances in mind) the whole Soviet argument in the special case of Korea falls to the ground.

The Poet's Corner

TWILIGHT SONG

(From "De Roberval")

The mountain peaks put on their hoods, Good-night! And the long shadows of the woods Would fain the landscape cover quite; The timid pigeons homeward fly, Scared by the whoop owl's eerie cry. Whoop-ooop! whoop-ooop As like a fiend he fliteth by; The ox to stall, the fowl to coop, The old man to his nightcap warm Young men and maids to slumber light. Sweet Mary, keep our souls from harm! Good-night; good-night!

—John Hunter-Duvar, 1888

Social Insurance Stands The Test

(Britain's News Letter)

42 million payments for sickness and injury benefits were made during the first year of Britain's new scheme of Social Insurance. In a recent report on the working of the scheme, the Minister of National Insurance states that the scheme has fully stood up to the test, and has made a sound financial start, with reserves of just under \$3 billion.

Main items of expenditure were \$750 million for sickness and injury benefit, with another \$80 million as contribution to the National Health Service. Benefit payments fell short of calculation — those for sickness numbered about 39 million, and new claims were dealt with at the rate of 140,000 a week. The amount paid out for these and other benefits was \$30 million less than forecast.

The Minister's report suggests that the total financial strength of Britain's Social Insurance scheme may be attributed to the low level of unemployment (averaging less than 2 per cent of the entire population compared with an estimated rate of 8-12 per cent. 173 million payments, amounting to \$20 million were made through Employment Bureaus — \$80 million less than expected.

Other payments analysed include maternity benefits, family allowances, pensions and assistance for widows and orphans, and compensation for industrial injuries. \$4 (\$12.32) was paid for every child born, and 20/(\$3.00) for 4 weeks, to 4 out of 5 mothers in Britain. In addition, 1 mother in every 9 received an allowance of 36/(\$5.50) each week for 13 weeks while nursing her child. Retirement and old age pensions are being paid to more than 4 million men and women, and the report claims that these benefits, allowances and payments are admirably fulfilling their purpose — "they are intended to provide a first line of defence against want".

The Age-Old Story

Better is it to be of an humble spirit with the lowly than to divide the spoil with the proud.

MYSTERIOUS DISEASE

BOMBAY, July 18 —(Reuters) — Thirty people died and 170 were taken to hospital here this month: due to a "mysterious disease" akin to cholera which has baffled municipal and health authorities.

WASHINGTON, July 14 —(AP) — Capt. William J. Stannard, 66, leader of the United States Army band from 1923 until 1935, died yesterday.

A RURAL PEOPLE

Of Ceylon's 6,700,000 population at least 85 per cent live in rural areas.

Electrical Contractor

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Scotland Plans Seaweed Farming On Large Scale

From the Edinburgh Scotsman

Where the foam breaks around the rocky coastlines of Scotland are the prized aquatic "gardens" which, cultivated by the ebb and flow of currents, promise to yield wealth undreamt of by the old kelpers who gathered seaweed for the burning.

Discovery has gone hand in hand with expert research and analysis. Commercial exploitation on an unprecedented scale is believed to be "just around the corner." Strange machines designed to overcome sharp ridges of rock and a depth of sea up to 40 feet—battered those who sought to gather this harvest of the sea-bed—will soon be cutting and sucking up the precious brown seaweed very much in the way a lawn-mower cuts grass and a vacuum cleaner draws dust into it.

Mysterious chemicals which cautious laboratory men describe as "novel", mineral constituents and carbohydrates in quantities measured in tens of thousands of tons, await the gatherers. Visions of a remarkable new industry for Scotland, almost fabulous in its potentialities, have been revealed to the pioneers whose peering and probing below the waves, during a unique survey of 1,500 miles of coast, discovered to them immense beds scattered from the far northern islands to Dunbar in the Lowlands.

Unknown to the masses of the general public, alginate production is already Britain's major seaweed industry—alginate, derived from the Latin, means seaweed—and this British chemical, 20 per cent of world production, is sold in 20 countries abroad. Its uses range from the manufacture of saucers, ice cream, jellies, films and papers, rubber, paints, beauty creams and cough mixtures, to the preparations employed in the surgical theatre, where their importance is widely recognized.

Now others are ranged alongside the alginic acids, the only seaweed chemical to be exploited successfully since the death of the old kelp industry which produced iodine and carbonate of soda for the making of soap and glass. Their names — mannitol, laminarin and fucoidin—suggest some new language of the sublittoral forests that sway in the "sunless sea". Laminaria is a genus of algae, and fucois suggest both a rock lichen and a fungus.

Chemists are concentrating their efforts upon mannitol and laminarin, the two most promising of these unexploited seaweed chemicals. Evidence gained so far indicates that they may find outlets commercially in the production of synthetic resins, explosives, plasticisers and glues.

Everything now depends upon the development of plans to harvest the many miles of brown seaweed. Surveys of the beds found growing between low-water mark and a depth of seven fathoms from the shore have revealed the existence of three and a half million tons. Two-thirds of Scotland's coastlines have still to be surveyed out of a total of approximately 4,500 miles. "That 'difficult and unique' task will not be completed for some years. But it is now possible to make a reasonable assessment of the country's seaweed resources, put at 10,000,000 tons a year, or 1,000,000 tons of dry seaweed annually.

Three methods of harvesting will be used to suit local conditions and scrap the weed from the sands and rocks. One has been successfully developed, and enables crofters and fishermen to use their boats to

good purpose during the off-season. Especially designed grapnels can be operated from motor boats or other vessels and, although this method cannot supply the needs of an expanding seaweed chemical industry, it has already proved its value. The tens of thousands of tons collected annually in Scotland have increased sevenfold in the past five years, and the number of collectors is six times as many. As a direct outcome of this expansion of the industry, it is claimed, there is now no unemployment among men in South Uist. A second harvesting technique about to be carried out on a commercial basis operates like the old mud dredges. In place of the normal buckets are rows of hooks, which tear the seaweed from the seabed, and, as the continuous belt revolves, throws the "crop" into the ship's hold. A small-scale model harvester like this brought up seaweed at the rate of six tons an hour. A private concern is now installing a modified version in a 140-ton vessel, which is expected to start operations this Summer. A third method, the outcome of four years' continuous work in laboratories and workshops, involves techniques that are novel and still undergoing development. It is known as the "cut and entertainment" method. Its effect is similar to that of a combined lawn-mower and vacuum cleaner dragged along the seabed.

Development of mechanical means of harvesting has been almost the sole preoccupation of the Engineering Division of the Scottish Seaweed Research Association. Nowhere else in the world has a method of the problem been attempted. This "extremely difficult" problem—the profusion of seaweed often grows on rocky beds in shallow water—is made doubly so by bad weather and heavy swells which restrict harvesting to about 20 days in the year. Furthermore, the seaweed cannot be seen from the surface; and, when it is cut, it sinks. Without successful harvesting methods, the industry cannot expand; with them, the limit of expansion is hard to visualize. Even with supplies of cast seaweed, that which the sea throws on to the shore and is collected by hand, often at great hazard and expense, industry has made a significant advance since the war. But all the valuable chemicals, other than alginic acid, are washed out of cast seaweed by the action of the waves. British firms using seaweed in their manufactures are hampered by the shortage of supplies; during the past 10 years, 30,000 tons of dry seaweed have been imported at a cost of £630,000. That is why the association have concentrated upon harvesting the sublittoral brown seaweeds.

Scotland, through the association, has undoubtedly led the world in this effort to harness the resources of the sea, and the world has not been slow to realize the significance of what has been attempted and accomplished. During the past 18 months, Australia, New Zealand, Africa, New Zealand, Norway, Sweden, Denmark, France, Ireland, the United States, Brazil, Chile, Morocco, Portugal, and Tristan de Cunha have all made inquiries at the association's headquarters. Canada and Norway, in fact, have already followed the Scottish example of setting up an Institute of Seaweed Research. A National Research Institute has been established near Oslo. Canada is conducting an investigation patterned upon the Scottish plan.

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