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 "The strongest memory is weaker than the weakest ink."
 THURSDAY, SEPT. 23, 1954

Freight Rate War

The reaction of Islanders to the rail-truck rate war in the haul between Toronto and Montreal is apt to be that it would be a good thing in a different locality. Unfortunately competition is forcing freight rates further down in an area that has long enjoyed the benefit of low rates and a short haul.

It can be safely predicted, unfortunately, that the reduced revenue resulting from the drastic cut in rates in the competitive area will force the railways to look for even higher rates on those lines in which competition is not so keen. Even so, it may not amount to as much as the loss which would result from failing to meet competition which would also have to be born by the remaining traffic.

The majority report of the Turgeon Commission recognizes the need of the railways to meet competition but found no solution of the problem of outlying areas which must pay the shot. The Royal Commission merely proposed that whenever a railway filed a competitive tariff it should simultaneously inform the Board of Transport Commissioners of the circumstances so that the Board would be able to suspend or disallow the change if it considered it to be unjustified.

Until such time as rail and highway transportation adjust themselves to operate in the most economical way it would seem that both will continue to accept losses in areas of competition and have to make them up elsewhere. Although the first effect of joint regulation of the various means of transport would probably be higher trucking rates in many areas, in the long run such control could be used to provide the most economical overall transportation.

Horsetails & Tiger Skins

Back in 1925 a tribal chief in the French Cameroons by the name of Ntapi found himself sentenced to 20 years in prison as the result of a jurisdictional fight between himself and a rival chief by the name of Fodjomekwet. On his release he discovered that his enemy had made off with numerous items which for generations had been used by his people in their ceremonial dances. 200 horsetails, 200 tiger skins, 250 loin cloths, 4 tom-toms, 80 gold bracelets, 200 ivory bracelets, 21 musical instruments and other items of lesser worth were among the dancing equipment purloined by Mr. Fodjomekwet. In addition, the rascal had stolen 225 huts, 180 goats, and 200 sheep. So says the bill of particulars which Mr. Ntapi recently presented to the United Nations in his petition for redress. He bases his claim on the United Nations declaration of human rights. "I desire," said the petitioner, "that my people and I may remain independent without interference by any outsider."

Even if the full weight of the United Nations is placed behind Mr. Ntapi's efforts to regain possession of his goods, it's going to be difficult enough to make the declaration of human rights effective in this particular case. But aggression is aggression, whether it be aimed at the sovereignty of a nation or the ceremonial dances of a primitive tribe. Mr. Ntapi is to be commended for bringing his grievance before the international body, and it would come as no surprise to hear that United Nations delegates have decided to give the prayer of the petitioner every possible consideration. At least it will be a change from Big Power disputes which take up so much of their time without showing any signs of being resolvable.

Tariffs & Wool Fabrics

In its demand for higher tariffs against British woollen imports, the Canadian textile industry ignores one factor which, perhaps more than any other, is responsible for the decline in its business — the growing impact of synthetic fabrics. This point is made in a brief by the Canadian Federation of Agriculture to the Canadian Tariff Board in connection with the inquiry into the effect on the domestic industry of British woollen goods entering Canada under the British preferential tariff.

The C.F.A. submission points out that there has been no upward trend in the consumption of woollen fabrics in Canada since 1943. In that year wool accounted for 7 per cent of all fabrics used in this country; by 1953 this figure was down to 5.7 per cent. On the other hand, the consumption of synthetic fabrics went up from 13 per cent of the total to 19 per cent in the

same period. The switch in buyers' preferences is partly a reflection of prices. Woollen goods have been getting more expensive compared with those made, for instance, from rayon. In 1943 the wholesale price index of wool fabrics was 134 while that of rayon was 130. By 1954 the wool index had almost doubled to 262, but rayon had increased to only 160.

The Federation submitted that from 1948 to 1952 it was not imports that brought a recession to the Canadian woollen industry, but a sharp decline in the domestic consumption of woollen fabrics. In this period production dropped off by 24 per cent; imports by 27 per cent; and consumption by 25 per cent. The decline in consumption was almost exactly the same as the increase in the consumption of synthetic fabrics. It is true that there was an upsurge of British wool imports in 1953—to \$38,425,000, from \$29,417,000 in 1952. But this was part of a general increase in all British imports and the preferential tariff cannot be held responsible as this was the same in both years.

Pity The 14th Graders

According to a news report from Washington, D. C., bureaucrats have their troubles just as other mortals do, especially if they happen to be in Grade 14, a category which includes clerks just below the rank of bureau or division chief. Until a year ago 14th graders were permitted to have rugs in their offices. Then, a new government directive made all types of floor covering the exclusive possessions of those in Grade 15 or above. And, as if that were not bad enough for the lower categories, executive type desks, upholstered chairs, paper trays, and receptacles (known in less exalted places as wastebaskets) were reserved for the higher-ups. Under the new policy a clerk in a lower category can demand rugs and the other luxurious items only if and when he is promoted to a higher rank; and that takes time; in fact, for thousands of clerks the time never comes.

The report does not say why the directive was issued in the first place. It may have been intended as a spur to ambition or as nothing more than a social distinction for those fortunate enough to reach the high rungs of the bureaucratic ladder. Unquestionably, it will mean quite a financial saving for the government; but whether that will make up for the almost inevitable discontent in the ranks of the 14th graders is another matter. A clerk who is obliged to walk on bare floors and to put up with cheap furniture is not going to be too happy when he looks across the corridor at a neighbour, only one notch above him in dignity and responsibility, revelling in luxury.

EDITORIAL NOTES

At 9:56 a.m. the sun enters the sign of Libra; the Autumn equinox.

A coating of lead has long been used to protect armoured cables, in addition to the layers of steel, paper, rubber and other materials. In a new Canadian telephone cable, however, the top layer of lead has been replaced by plastic.

An astonishing number of distinguished visitors have been received at Ottawa in recent months. Prime Minister Yoshida of Japan, who arrives there on Sunday, is both a welcome guest and a symbol of the increasing interchange between this country and the rest of the world.

Veteran farmers who have long boiled potatoes to feed to cattle must be somewhat rueful at findings of the Experimental Farm at Charlottetown that raw, pulped potatoes can be used to replace turnips in the dairy herd ration. It may be, however, that the cows enjoyed the well-cooked spuds more than they would raw ones.

Quebec Transport Minister Rivard is not impressed by the fact that the British North America Act, as interpreted by the Privy Council, assigns interprovincial transport to Federal jurisdiction. This seems to contrast strangely with the general attitude of the Quebec Government to insist vigorously on constitutional rights.

The motoring age may well bring back the courtesy characteristic of the dueling era. It is being realized more and more that only the most considerate of conduct on the highways can reduce the present heavy loss of life as, in another age, only the most careful politeness could avert sudden death on the field of honour.

Robert Seymour Bridges, English poet, was born this date 1930. At 38 he retired from medical practice to devote himself to literature. He was a master of language and had a deep and subtle insight into human nature. Besides his poetry, he found time to produce eight plays and to publish several anthologies and critical essays. At the age of 85 he published his great poem "The Testament of Beauty."



Magic Wand

The Poet's Corner

THE MEDITATIONS OF CLEM AH LEE
 (A sad poem about the Chinese)
 When I held office under the late King
 I tried to bring fair shares to all the people.
 I was affectionately handled by the cartoonists
 And was held up as a model to fathers of families.
 Now in exile I am growing old.
 And the public no longer appreciate my motives.
 How hard is the lot of a rejected politician!
 I have travelled East to bring goodwill to a nation
 Who fail to understand our way of life.
 But when I pluck the lotus blossom
 "Korea":
 When the eyes of the dancing girls
 Shine green in the moonlight
 They remind me of Vietnam:
 When at a banquet I empty the rice bowl
 Formosa is written there.
 The first leaves of Autumn fall on the jade floor.
 The taste of shark's fin is bitter in my mouth
 And the chilling breeze brings rumors of elections.
 —P. F. Widdows in Saturday Night

Bingo And Politics

(St. Thomas Times-Journal)
 The game of bingo is illegal in New York City, where many other things that ought to be illegal are not, and a few days ago Police Inspector Louis Goldberg, in pursuance of his duties as head of the morals squad, walked in on a bingo tournament where 1,000 women were playing, and put a stop to their fun. That same day he stopped three other games.
 Two days later he received notice from Police Commissioner Francis Adams that he was demoted. Reason given for the demotion was that he had not notified his superiors that he intended to raid the halls. Why a police officer should have to give notice that he intended carrying out the law within his district we can only guess at. Surely that is what he is there for. Our guess is that he did not notify higher-ups because they might have tipped-off the sponsors to not hold the session. Goldberg, who had 36 years' service on the force, immediately tendered his resignation. Mayor Wagner supported the Police Commissioner.
 Politics enters into the bingo situation in New York City. The game is wholly illegal, but a great number of people engage in commercial undertakings. The Democrats, facing a State election in November, are anxious to woo the voters as much as they can, so they are advocating legalizing Bingo for charitable purposes.

Bingo is said to have originated in Italy under the name of Iotto. It was played on cards divided into numbered squares, with numbered counters. As each counter was turned up, players with the corresponding number on their cards covered it with a disk. The person who first covered a row of numbers won. As a gambling game Iotto was called keno in the United States. It was played at county fairs and carnivals, sometimes for prizes and sometimes for cash. Its successor, Bingo, was born around the turn of the century. At first it was played in the home, purely as a pastime. Then it was introduced at resorts and other amusement centres where "souvenirs" were given as prizes. As the appeal of keno dolls first covered a row of numbers fell off, cash prizes were substituted.
 Today, bingo is in the big business class. "Bingo Supplies" rate a section of the Yellow Pages in the New York telephone directory. It is one of the big booths at the Canadian National Exhibition. Here and in the United States the game has become a major source of revenue for many religious and fraternal organizations. Bingo has

NOTES BY THE WAY

Ultimate in refinement: In Toronto they call the dog-catcher the canine control officer. — Stratford Beacon-Herald.

We have never in more than 40 years of estimating prairie crops seen grain experts so badly stymied in trying to call the final figures as they are this year. The weather man is to blame. — Lethbridge Herald.

The announcement that the musical Oklahoma is being filmed in Arizona because Arizona is more like Oklahoma makes us wonder why we ever bothered about those geography books. — Hamilton Spectator.

Whatever anyone may think, or may have thought, of Camilleien Houde, none can be in any doubt as to his deep and lively interest in Montreal. This interest has been accompanied by a very real affection for the city, its institutions and its people of all degrees. This perhaps is the key to the status of Mr. Houde, not only in Montreal, but in much wider circles. He loves people and has his own convincing ways of showing it. That they reciprocate this sentiment in greater or lesser measure has been often made apparent during his tenure of office. — Montreal Gazette.

"Interlingua," the latest thing in international languages, is to be used at the second world congress of cardiology which is to be held in Washington and attended by specialists from more than 40 countries. "Interlingua" is a combination of all the common elements of some of the principal Western languages and is said to be almost immediately familiar to anyone with a knowledge of Spanish, French, Italian or Portuguese. Since it has been in use for some time in a number of scientific journals, it should prove useful at this gathering. — Bradford Expositor.

Psychologists have emerged from a long summer silence to state that man passes his peak after the age of 24. The disabilities of age begin to creep up on him at 20, and after four years gain the upperhand. This is hard to take, even where a 24th birthday is only vaguely recalled. The

also become the cosy refuge of professional gamblers and a hot political issue. It has elected some public officials in the United States, defeated others.
 What happens to the Democrats in New York will be observed with interest by the States where it is still illegal.

The Age Old Story

Take heed that ye despoil not one of these little ones; for I say unto you, That in heaven their angels do always behold the face of my Father which is in heaven. For the Son of man is come to save that which is lost.

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The Passing Scene

By Observer

MOSCOW-PEIPING REJOICINGS
 These early autumn days must be reasonably happy ones for Communist diplomats in Russia and China. This is so because, however one looks at the world political situation, the Communists seem to be having things much their own way; at least that is how it must appear to them. The E D C debacle is a case in point.

This French sponsored and French defeated plan never had much chance to win its way into the political affections of the French people, mainly because the British were to have a very limited relationship with it. So perhaps it is just as well, all things considered, that it fell to pieces. On the ruins there may arise a sounder and more realistic structure of Western European unity. That, however, will take time — a great deal of time, in the opinion of most political analysts who specialize in European affairs—and meanwhile the Russians are gloating and saying "we told you so!" From the start the Soviet leaders predicted that the European Defense Community would never be transferred from paper blueprints to the military maps; and, of course, they have done everything they could think of to make their prediction come true.

The Soviet press is full of references to that they call "the stunning defeat for American diplomacy." One paper said recently that "French patriots have carried off a great victory by defeating American aggressors who have spent two years trying to put E D C into effect, using the most cunning bait, the most severe threats and downright blackmail." Another remarked editorially that "recent events in Paris have disarmed the United States aggressive circles that have been scheming on rearming Germany under the false label of a European Defense Community."

It is interesting, although not surprising, that nowhere does one find any mention of British or French militarists; it is always the Americans who come in for the abuse and ridicule. The reason is, of course, clear enough. The French repudiation of E D C was a partial repudiation, at least, of American policy in Europe. To make that anti-American sentiment grow is the first aim of the Soviet planners.
 The next strategy, in all likelihood, will be aimed at keeping France or Germany — it doesn't matter much which—from accepting any workable substitute for E D C; the result of the recent Schleswig-Holstein State election would seem to indicate that some segments of the German population may be persuaded to listen to the Soviet blandishment.

While SEATO itself is nothing for Communist leaders to rejoice about, there are some things about it which must contribute to their present state of satisfaction. The clear fact is that SEATO is largely easily implemented phases. It is more a declaration of high principles (non-colonialism, for instance) than a positive military pact. In fact the military clauses take up comparatively little space in the documents of agreement, and the actual obligations of the member nations are characterized by a great deal of flexibility.

There seems to be no certainty that all eight nations would act quickly and jointly in the event of renewed aggression in South East Asia. The fact that neither India nor Indonesia is having any part in it is good news for Moscow and Peiping; and India's open opposition to whatever military commitments are involved must be especially reassuring to them. Perhaps the best features about SEATO are the emphasis on national self-determination — which is hoped will help to clear away suspicions of Asian peoples — towards Western policies — and the determination to pool economic resources in the campaign to improve living standards.

These things represent a positive approach to long-term problems, but they do not, in themselves, guarantee protection from Communist aggression now or in the immediate future. Only a rigid military plan could do that and,

Old Charlottetown

and P. E. I.
 OLD BURYING GROUND
 "A movement is on foot for the purpose of taking suitable provision for the decent care of the old burying ground (on Elm Avenue). It is proposed to build a house near the ground, and to place a watchman in the same. It is said that the grounds have become a rendezvous for loafers and others of questionable fame, that the iron railings have been sold for old iron, and the graves have been in various ways desecrated. It is nearly time that something was done in the matter."
 —The Examiner, Aug. 7, 1882.

A coconut with its outer husk left on will keep 20 or 30 years without rotting.

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